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AND

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BIRTH.

At Shanghai, on the 3rd April, 1898, the wife of GEO. MARCAL, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 12th April, 1898, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. R. F. Cabbold, HENRY HUMPHREYS, of Hongkong, to EVA, second daughter of W. G. HUMPHREYS, Esq., of Hongkong.

DEATHS.

On the 24th February, suddenly, at 6, Ponsonby Street, Liverpool, aged 42 years, JOHN RENNIE, late Sanitary Department, Hongkong, Mark Master Mason Lodge 419, E.C. Hongkong.

On the 31st March, 1898, at No. 101, Bluff, Yokohama, WOODSIDE HELEN, the beloved wife of EDWARD JAMES MOSS.

At Yokohama, on the 31st March, FREDERICK JOSEPH, second son of H. COLLINS, aged 28 years.

At Canton, on the 6th April, 1898, JOHN RYRIE, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. GREAVES, aged 2 months.

At No. 9, Belilios Terrace, on the morning of the 13th April, of enteric fever, KATE MACDONALD, the beloved wife of GEO. P. LAMBERT, aged 25 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 12th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 8th April (27 days); and the French mail of the 11th March arrived, per M. M. steamer *Indus*, on the 10th April (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Woosung has been declared a treaty port.

Sir Henry Blake leaves London for Hongkong on the 1st May.

The Customs Bank at Shanghai was destroyed by fire on the 2nd April.

H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia left on 13th April in the *Gefion* for Shanghai.

M. Pichon, the new French Minister to Peking, was a passenger by the M. M. steamer *Indus*.

Mr. F. Carl, lately Commissioner of Customs at Szemao, is at present in Hongkong on his way home to the United States on two years' leave.

The steamer *Glenturret* arrived at Shanghai from Hongkong with six cases of plague on board and was sent into quarantine for ten days at the Red Buoy.

Mr. Lillie, recently banished from Siam, left Singapore for Saigon on the 3rd April in the M.M. *Indus*. He proposed to pass through Singapore again a fortnight later on his way to Europe.

The cable from Hongkong to Luzon has been removed from Bolinao and extended direct to Manila. The operations were completed on the 8th April by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co.'s cable steamer *Sherard Osborn*.

The manager of the Hongkong Branch of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, has received a telegram from his head office, Singapore, stating that the annual general meeting of the shareholders held on 12th inst. passed off satisfactorily and the report and accounts were passed.

Dr. Gomes da Silva, Chief Colonial Surgeon of Macao, has written a long and vigorous letter to Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer of Hongkong and President of the Sanitary Board, protesting against certain references made at a meeting of the Sanitary Board to Macao and to alleged irregularities committed by Macao practitioners with reference to the registration of plague and other infectious diseases.

The Manila *Comercio* of the 1st April contains an account of the murder of the Rev. Father Moisés Santos, parish priest of Malolos. It appears that on the 31st March the deceased clergyman had handed over charge of the parish to a coadjutor, as he had been called to another appointment at Manila, and in the evening he was driving to the railway station, when, on arriving at a small bridge, three men who had been lying in wait for him stopped the conveyance and while two of them held the driver the third plunged a dagger in the breast of the unfortunate clergyman, who died almost immediately. Vengeance is supposed to have been the motive of the crime.

The *Times* states that China has agreed to the French demands for a railway to Yunnan, the lease of a coaling station at Kwangchauwan, the non-alienation of the provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan, and the appointment of a Frenchman as Director of the Imperial posts. The Havas telegram referring to the same subject reads as follows:—"The demands of France that have been accorded do not include the alienation of any portion of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan, but the construction of a railway having its terminus at Yunnanfu, the lease of a coaling station, and the nomination of a Frenchman as Director of the Imperial posts.

The British steamer *Saint Ronald*, of Liverpool (Capt. Clements), arrived at Colombo on the 24th March, from Saigon, with two of her propeller blades broken. She left Saigon on the 13th March, and the accident occurred five days after, though the exact nature of it could not be ascertained at the time, beyond the fact that the vessel's speed was greatly reduced. After arrival an inspection was made, when it was found that two out of the four blades had broken. She is bound for Dunkirk with a cargo of rice.

News concerning the dispute between the United States and Spain has been anxiously looked for during the week. The U. S. squadron is still lying in Hongkong harbour, ready to put to sea at an hour's notice. The British steamers *Zafiro* and *Nanshan* have been purchased for the U. S. Government as store-ships and having taken in their cargoes, have cleared at the Harbour Office for Guam, one of the southern islands belonging to Spain. It is anticipated that after the Spanish fleet in the Philippines has been disposed of Manila will capitulate without resistance on the part of the land forces.

The Singapore Secretary of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, has received the following telegram from Raub, dated 5th April:—"Rough clean-up of Battery yielded 3,070 oz. amalgam, estimated quantity of stone crushed being 1,400 tons." This represents work for five weeks ending 4th April. The *Free Press* says:—"If the amalgam be taken to yield 32 per cent. gold only, a low estimate, the smelting for the next clean up, to include April as well as March, would give about 1,964 oz. gold for 2,800 tons stone crushed, which would not be much less than three-quarters of an ounce to the ton. It is to be remembered that it is not only actual quartz that is put through, but often quantities of mullock in places where the reef is broken up and diffused through it. It all goes through and counts as tons of stone, but it needs hardly any crushing and is quickly washed through the 'boxes'."

The Bay of Along with its thousands of rocks, between which lies a labyrinth of channels and natural harbours, is, says the *Avenir du Tonkin*, one of the most singular places in the world. Apart from its southern sun, it completely resembles the Norwegian fjords. It was long an assured refuge for pirates, who could easily conceal themselves in its caves or jungle. In case of war it would certainly be one of the objectives of a hostile fleet, who might possibly attempt to force the passes. It was important therefore to place this weak point on our coasts in a complete state of defence. During his recent stay in Tonkin the Governor-General visited Hongay and the Bay in company with Admiral de la Bedoillière, the Colonel commanding the Artillery, and other superior officers. It was decided that, besides the mobile defence by sea going torpedo boats already organised, batteries should be constructed completely covering the passes. Work is actively proceeding with this object, and fixed torpedoes are being placed by the Navy in each navigable channel. At the present time access to the Bay of Along may be considered absolutely impracticable by it matters not what fleet, and any attempted landing would prove futile.

CHINA'S CONCESSIONS TO FRANCE

If it be true, as alleged by the *Times*, that China has yielded all the demands of France, there can be little doubt that we will soon be informed of equivalent concessions made to Great Britain. This was what happened in respect to the Russian demands, and the next telegram may have in store for us a surprise as great as was the acquisition of Weihaiwei. At the least we may look for the much needed rectification of the boundaries of Hongkong. Great Britain at present holds a strong position in the councils of Peking and it cannot be supposed that an opportunity like the present of securing all that this colony desires would be neglected. The guarantee as to the non-alienation of the three southern provinces must presumably have been given subject to satisfaction of Great Britain's demands with respect to the territory in Kwangtung required for the rectification of the boundaries of this colony. Instead of being formally ceded the territory in question will in all probability be handed over under lease, as that seems to be the fashion now in vogue in respect of concessions made by China. The tenure is not a satisfactory one and may in the future give rise to difficulties both for China and her lessees.

China has given Great Britain a guarantee against the alienation of any part of the Yangtze Valley, and she is said now to have given a similar guarantee to France with respect to the three southern provinces. Does this guarantee imply a corresponding obligation on the other side to assist China to resist any aggression by other Powers in the regions specified? Another question that presents itself is whether the leasing of a port for a term of years would be considered an alienation within the meaning of the guarantee? China is nominally supposed to have surrendered none of her sovereign rights in respect of Kiaochau, Port Arthur, or Weihaiwei, and similarly she might lease other ports without a surrender of her sovereign rights and therefore without alienation, unless the Powers to whom guarantees against alienation have been given choose to place a stricter interpretation on the term and are prepared to support that interpretation against all comers. The next few years, we fear, are likely to see a crop of controversies in China almost as large and as vexed as that which has arisen between various rival Powers in Africa. Great Britain will no doubt be able to hold her own in the conflict of interests, but she must be prepared to make forward movements when it is seen that other Powers are bent on cutting her out. A suitable reply to France's pretensions in Southern China would be the construction of a railway with British capital and of British material from Kowloon to Canton and thence, following for the most part the course of the West River, to the Chinese town of Lungchow, near the Tonkin boundary. There the British and French lines would meet and the two nations might either shake hands or fight as their inclination or national temperament might dictate.

A sad case of suicide occurred on board the O. & O. steamer *Gaelic* shortly before her arrival at Shanghai. Early in the morning of the 4th inst., several of the crew were startled by the report of a firearm which appeared to come from the cabin occupied by the ship's butcher. An inspection of the room revealed the fact that the unfortunate man had committed suicide by shooting himself through the right temple. A medical examination of the body was made by the doctor of the vessel, and the deceased was subsequently buried at sea.—*Nagasaki Press*.

THE POLICY OF THE OPEN DOOR AND ITS APPLICATION.

The policy of the open door, of which Great Britain stands forward as the champion, is theoretically of unassailable soundness, but, like some other sound theories, it is capable of being misapplied in practice. It is misapplied if it is used to bolster up barbarism against civilisation, for although in barbarous countries a so-called open market may exist for British goods the market is in effect less open than it would be under a civilised Government even if coupled with preferential tariffs. The British public has of late been too prone to assume that every advance made by another Power must necessarily prove injurious to British trade, whereas experience has shown that the contrary is generally the case. It would, of course, be more satisfactory if other Powers would invariably apply the principle of free trade to their new possessions, and in that direction Great Britain is justified in urging the policy of the open door upon them, but whether that policy be adopted or not the substitution of a civilised for a barbarous government must always be considered as in itself a net gain, even from a trading point of view. An interesting and important report from Sir H. H. JOHNSTON, Consul-General in Tunis, on the condition of the Regency under the French protectorate, which was assumed seventeen years ago, was laid before Parliament the other day by the Foreign Office. In this report a graphic contrast is drawn between the state of affairs in 1880 and that which now prevails. In 1880 life and property were thoroughly insecure; it would have been impossible for any European to have travelled about many parts of the Regency without a considerable escort, and impossible to penetrate some parts unless at the head of an army. It was as difficult, dangerous, and expensive to travel about Tunis then as it is now to visit the far interior of Morocco. Now the whole Regency is as safe for tourists as France, and the change as regards the lives and property of natives is equally great. It is with the question of trade that we are now chiefly concerned, however, and on this point Sir HARRY JOHNSTON has much to say. Twenty-five years ago British commercial influence was dominant in Tunis; but from 1876 onwards it began to decline. The English bank there came to an end, various British enterprises were abandoned, and British trade declined from £300,000 in 1876 to about £200,000 in 1881 and 1882. France stepped into the vacant place, and when the disintegration of the Arab Government was complete it fell to the lot of France to replace it. Since then British trade has slowly increased, and in 1897 amounted to about £680,000. That, however, has been under the policy of the open door, for the trade of all countries has hitherto been treated on an equal footing. Under the new policy of differential tariffs we must be prepared to treat Tunis as an essential part of France. Nevertheless, Sir HARRY JOHNSTON foresees, even under these conditions, a considerable future for British trade in that part of North Africa, if the present tariff is not sensibly altered in regard to British goods. We have had a similar experience in the neighbouring French possessions in Indo-China, where under French protection a considerable British trade has grown up which the introduction of a differential tariff has not been able to stifle. Exact figures of the Indo-China trade are not available, but a reference to the Harbour Master's report

shows that while in the year 1880 the vessels that left Hongkong for Cochin-China, Hainan, and ports in the Gulf of Tonkin numbered 243 of a tonnage of 145,213, in 1896 they numbered 465 of a tonnage of 430,421. Many of the vessels engaged in this trade leave Hongkong in ballast, but the tonnage leaving with cargo was 294,664 in 1896 as against 100,620 in 1880, or an increase of nearly 200 per cent., and of that increase it must be assumed a large proportion represents British goods. There can be no doubt that the establishment of Russia in Manchuria will lead to a similar or even greater increase of trade in that direction. Anyhow we have to thank Germany, Russia, and France for having materially contributed by their recent action to the opening up of China and to the revitalisation of British diplomacy in China. Mr. CURZON was right when some months ago he said there was room in Asia for all. It would have been a lamentable mistake if Great Britain had gone to war to prevent Russia having a little room.

GREAT BRITAIN'S DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS IN CHINA.

While local Jingoes are lamenting that the China question has been settled without a "scrimmage" and complaining that diplomatically we have been beaten all along the line, that Great Britain's prestige has been lost, and that the country is going to the dogs, it may not be without interest to see what our neighbours have to say about it all. An article in the *Courrier d'Haiphong* on "The English Policy in China" opens with the assertion that "England has achieved a great diplomatic success in China and taken a brilliant revenge for the occupation of Kiaochau by the Germans and of Port Arthur by the Russians." The article was written evidently before the announcement of the lease of Weihaiwei and refers only to the advantages gained before that event. In the first place reference is made to the opening of the waterways of China to steam navigation. It is true, the writer says, that England has obtained no exclusive advantage in this, that the navigation will be open to vessels of every nationality, but that, he holds, is only an appearance; the British share representing four-fifths of the total foreign trade of China it is almost exclusively to England's benefit that this opening of the rivers will enure. By the side of England Germany and Japan will take important places in the trade of China, but as to France, alas! what will she gain by the opening of the rivers? The writer of the article goes on to complain of the want of enterprise shown by French shipping and the repressive nature of the French navigation laws, and having delivered himself at some length on this point, returns to the other concessions obtained by England. The Son of Heaven has undertaken that the office of Inspector-General of Customs shall always be entrusted to an Englishman, so long as British trade with China exceeds that of any other Power. This gives to England an indirect control of the Customs Administration for an indefinite period. "She will lose this control only when her commerce becomes inferior to that of some other nation, that is to say, when hens have teeth." Besides this, the article continues, "China has formally agreed not to lease, hypothecate, or sell to any Power whatsoever the territory of the Yangtze Valley. Now the Yangtze is much the richest part of China, and it is that, apparently, that Great Britain, with her usual keen scent,

"has reserved for herself in the event of the ultimate partition of the great yellow monarchy. In all this we must admire the ability of the English policy. There you see the people who in the China-Japan conflict took the part of Japan. One would have thought that when peace was signed China, if she had favours to distribute, would have reserved them for those who helped her, to the exclusion of those who opposed or abandoned her." Reference is then made to the assumed absence of any concession to France, the article having been written before the recent announcement on that subject, and the conclusion is as follows:—"On the other hand England has obtained the advantages we have seen. With more truth than the showmen at the fair, who have adopted it for their games of chance, the Foreign Office might inscribe above its door in Downing Street this wonderful device, 'Here one wins at every throw!'"

The article from which we have quoted is not entitled to any special weight; it is written without any very intimate or up-to-date knowledge of the subjects to which it refers; but it is nevertheless of some interest as an independent outside opinion. The writer, though not very familiar with the details of the game has seized upon the main fact that Great Britain has come out the biggest winner. During the course of the game she has had to modify her tactics. One has to do so in most games, according to the course of the opponent's play, and diplomacy is no exception to the rule. Great Britain started with the idea of preserving the integrity of China; she has succeeded in preserving it in name, but in fact there have been important cessions of territory and a setting up of spheres of influence. Manchuria is now unquestionably a sphere of Russian influence, but subject to the condition that the trade of all nations shall be treated on an equal footing. Great Britain, however, to meet this new development, has earmarked the Yangtze Valley for her own in case of the ultimate break-up of the Chinese Empire, and in the meantime, with a view to her own advantage and to the preservation of the Empire, has obtained important concessions of political and commercial value. New ports are to be thrown open to trade, the rivers are to be opened to steam navigation, the railway is to be carried from Burmah through Yunnan into Szechuen; as a precaution against an administration of the Customs inimical to British interests the office of Inspector-General is to be held in perpetuity by a British subject, and in order to restore the balance of power in so far as it may have been shaken by the movements of other nations Weihaiwei has been acquired as a naval station. Having obtained so much we may regard without misgiving the acquisitions of our rivals, especially as they will all in the long run operate to the advantage of British trade.

The only point on which disquietude may seem to be justified is the alleged claim of France for a guarantee against the alienation of any part of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, or Yunnan, a claim that might be construed as bringing within a French sphere of influence territories that Great Britain may rightly claim as being within her own sphere. A coaling station of course we cannot grudge to France; she has as much right to one as any other Power; but we could not regard with equanimity the subjection of the trade of the West River to French control or influence. There appears, however, to be some uncertainty as to this alleged semi-protectorate of France over the southern provinces. The Havas telegram referring to the concessions

made to France reads as follows:—"The demands of France that have been accorded do not include the alienation of any portion of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, or Yunnan, but the construction of a railway having its terminus at Yunnanfu, the lease of a coaling station, and the nomination of a Frenchman as Director of the Imperial Post." It will be seen that the reference to Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan cannot by any twisting of the words be construed into the establishment of any special French influence in the provinces named, and when the whole of the arrangements come to be stated in detail we suspect it will be found that British trade has nothing to fear from any political change in the South any more than in the North. On a review of the whole circumstances British subjects have good reason to congratulate themselves on the diplomatic success that has been achieved. The opportunities of trade have been largely extended and British prestige in the Far East stands higher than it has done for the last quarter of a century.

PLAGUE MEASURES AND MEDICAL INSPECTION.

In so far as the letter of Dr. GOMES DA SILVA to Dr. ATKINSON refers to personal matters we may leave it to be dealt with by the gentlemen concerned. What is of more direct public importance is the question whether "the slack way they do things in Macao" is, as Dr. GOMES DA SILVA claims, attended with better results in the suppression of plague than the strict way we do things in Hongkong. The point is not one upon which we are prepared to venture a decided opinion, but it must be admitted that Macao's experiences in connection with the plague have been less painful than those of Hongkong. In 1894, when Canton and Hongkong were ravaged by the disease, Macao enjoyed immunity from it, owing, according to Dr. GOMES DA SILVA, to the protection afforded by a system of medical inspection. In 1895, however, when Canton and Hongkong were almost entirely free of the disease, an epidemic occurred at Macao, but it was, we believe, not so virulent as that which had prevailed in Hongkong the previous year, and the inhabitants generally were spared the excessive hardship to which the inhabitants of Hongkong were subjected during the epidemic here by the stringent regulations enforced, and especially by the house to house visitation. In 1896 Hongkong had another epidemic, while Macao was again free. 1897 fortunately was not a plague year in either place. This year the disease manifested itself in Hongkong some time ago and last month reached Macao, having been imported, it is believed, from Hongkong, but so far, it is claimed, only sporadic cases have occurred and no great alarm seems to be felt in the neighbouring colony.

The chief point of difference in the Hongkong and Macao methods of dealing with the disease is that while it is alleged that under the Macao system the inhabitants willingly notify all cases of plague that occur in their houses the inhabitants of Hongkong practise every possible concealment, so much so that, as was explained at a recent meeting of the Sanitary Board, "the majority of cases are dead and picked up in the street, and you cannot trace anything about them." Naturally the official view is altogether in favour of compulsion, but the system is evidently not without its drawbacks, and a policy of conciliation might not be without

its own advantages. A doctor who was specially sent out from England to Bombay in connection with the plague there writes to the *Times*—(the letter appears in the issue of the 12th March)—in the hope that the influence of that paper "may put indirect pressure on the authorities to treat the disease by methods more scientific and which cannot be less efficacious than those at present adopted." Having detailed the measures in force at the time he wrote, the correspondent says:—"There is an immense popular prejudice against such drastic measures, which would not for a moment be tolerated in any civilised country in which the people had any reason to call themselves free. The consequence is wholesale concealment of cases, and the gruesome experience of sending dying people stowed away in boxes, put under beds, into lofts, or turned into the street in the hope that they can be buried quietly and the house from which they came remain unknown." Since the date of the letter, 14th January, there have been riots at Bombay and the rules have been modified, a more conciliatory policy having been adopted and the prejudices of the natives taken into consideration. It would certainly be a good thing if in Hongkong, whether by conciliation or compulsion, the Chinese could be induced to report all cases as soon as they occur instead of turning them out into the street. Whether conciliation or compulsion would be the more likely to effect that end is a point which it would be satisfactory to have a representative Sanitary Board to decide, instead of the present almost exclusively official body.

But whatever measures may be taken to cope with the plague when it has once broken out the main thing is to prevent its introduction from outside. The *Hongkong Telegraph*, expressing what appears to be a widely entertained view, says:—"It is time to realise that, situated at Hongkong is, disease germs cannot be kept from coming here. The only thing to do is to render the colony uninhabitable for bacteria." Our contemporary admits that this is a "big order." It is more; it is an impossible order. The colony as a whole must do what each of the European residents it is to be hoped does individually, that is, keep its house in good sanitary condition and at the same time guard against the introduction of infection. We may take it that Government House is as uninhabitable for bacteria—(the phrase is a meaningless one)—as any place in the colony, but we may also take it for granted that General BLACK would not knowingly permit the introduction of a case of infectious disease into the house. Why should it be assumed that the colony can with safety admit cases of infectious disease when we are all individually so thoroughly cognisant of the danger of having such cases in our own immediate neighbourhood? The colony has a two-fold duty towards itself to perform, to promote internal sanitation and at the same time to prevent the introduction of disease. Both involve some expense and trouble, but the system of medical inspection should especially commend itself on the principle that prevention is better than cure.

We are informed by Dr. Clark, Acting Secretary of the Sanitary Board, that rinderpest exists at the present time at Macao, Canton, and along the delta of the West River, but that every possible precaution is being taken by the officers of the Sanitary Board to prevent the importation of infected meat into the markets of this colony.

ON TITLES.

The Officer Administering the Government of the Straits Settlements, Mr. J. A. SWETTENHAM, is to have the title of "His Honour" instead of the one hitherto customarily employed, namely, "His Excellency." From a reference to the subject in the *Straits Times* we gather that the change is made by Mr. SWETTENHAM'S own request. The *Penang Gazette*, however, treats the matter in a semi-jocular vein as a grievance and asks, what can the Honourable J. A. SWETTENHAM, Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements and Companion of a British Order of Knighthood, have done to merit this indignity, if indignity it be? The article proceeds:—"Some of our readers may recollect the contempt implied by Sir EDWARD O'MALLEY for the distinction of 'His Honour,' when he reached the Straits from Hongkong and became Chief Justice here. They, also, may call to mind his successful effort in the direction of an alteration and his obtaining the 'dignity of 'Honourable.' 'Honourable' is, therefore, apparently more honourable than 'His Honour.' How, then, comes it that the official who is called upon to take the position of the Queen's representative in the colony and serve his Queen as chief officer of that colony falls, like Lucifer, from the heaven occupied by 'Honourables' to the dubious quarter inhabited by only 'His Honours?'" The reference to Sir EDWARD O'MALLEY takes us by surprise, for we should have thought he was one of the last men in the world to have troubled himself about "frills." It appears to be a fact, however, that in popular estimation, if not in law, the title "Honourable" stands higher than that of "His Honour," which is the designation to which Judges in the Crown Colonies, in Hongkong at all events, are entitled. This may perhaps be due in some measure to the usage of the press. It is as convenient to write and as easy to read "The Hon. A. B. So and So" as "Mr. A. B. So and So," and the use of this form is generally regarded as agreeable. People entitled to the designation of "Honourable" therefore get the full benefit of it. "His Honour," however, does not conveniently lend itself to contraction and is too cumbersome for ordinary use. "His Honour Mr. Justice So-and-So" does not scan well and the result is that Judges, if they have no other handle to their name, are usually spoken of and written of simply as "Mr. Justice So-and-So." "Justice" is in itself an honorific distinction, but it is not deemed altogether satisfactory, partly perhaps because it is not so well known or understood as that of Honourable. Everyone when he hears or reads of "The Hon." knows what is meant, but a former resident of Hongkong who was called upon on a matter of business by a newly arrived Puisne Judge whose card announced him as "Mr. Justice So-and-So" was surprised to learn afterwards that he had had an interview with a Judge; he had taken "Justice" for the gentleman's Christian name. In court the Judges are usually by courtesy addressed as "Your Lordship," but it is a courtesy title only of no legal validity, and is seldom or never used outside the court, even in direct personal address. Sometimes in official circles the designation of "The Honourable" is applied to the Judges when speaking or writing of them in the third person, but the form has no warrant either in official regulation or common use. Whether the Judges themselves would desire a different arrangement, as

Sir E. L. O'MALLEY is said to have done on his arrival in the Straits, we do not know; perhaps some would and some would not. According to idiosyncrasy. It seems anomalous, however, that a Judge, occupying the important position he does and having regard to his standing in the public service, should have a less honorific title than officials very much his juniors who happen by virtue of their office to possess a seat in Council. The question, however, is not one calculated to greatly excite the community. Titles, of course, have their importance, but by the untitled "man in the street" the importance is not ranked very highly. "Shall I address him as Captain or Major?" asked a clerk who had occasion to send a communication to a military officer whose dual appointments rendered his correct designation somewhat uncertain. "I don't know," replied the taipan, "better address him as Colonel;" which is always a safe principle to act upon and may be usefully applied to all ranks. If you want a policeman to make things pleasant for you, say in the way of allowing you to pass when he is placed on guard to keep the public back, you may address him civilly as "Sergeant" and will probably find the title a *tas an* "open sesame." Referring again to the title of "His Honour" as applied to an administrator, we ought perhaps to mention that our Penang contemporary suggests the use of the contraction "H.H.," which would have the advantage of elevating the bearer into the regions of royalty.

SUPREME COURT.

9th April.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

NIP SHEUNG CHOI, APPELLANT, SUI NUN RESPONDENT.

Mr. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Mounsey and Brutton) said this was an appeal from a decision of Mr. Wodehouse, Police Magistrate, on the 3rd January of this year, by which he sentenced the appellant, Nip Sheung Choi, to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. Their Lordships would see that the charge made against the appellant at the Police Court was that she "unlawfully did assault, beat, and abuse one Sui Nun, a girl under the age of 14 years, on the 8th December, 1897, and divers other dates, thereby causing her grievous bodily harm." Their Lordships would see from the face of it that the charge was irregular. The appellant was charged with beating Sui Nun on the 28th December "and divers other dates."

Mr. Justice Wise—But the Magistrate does not find that.

Mr. Pollock—There is no amendment to the charge. As your Lordship has just pointed out, the Police Magistrate in the notice which was issued by him with regard to this finding says that he convicted the appellant for the assault upon the girl on the 28th December, 1897, but I think it is a material fact for your Lordships to know that the charge which was made against the appellant in this case was for assaulting the little girl on the 28th December "and divers other dates," and that that charge was never amended during the course of the proceedings.

Mr. Justice Wise—I do not know that it is necessary to amend it; he has given her six months for the assault on the 28th December.

Mr. Pollock—I think it is an important fact for your lordships to bear in mind—the fact that the charge was assaulting the girl on the 28th December "and divers other dates," and that the charge was never amended.

Mr. Justice Wise—I do not think that that

quashes the conviction. It is the conviction we go on and not the charge.

The Chief Justice—You mean it has a bearing on the question of evidence?

Mr. Justice Wise—But it does not make the conviction bad.

Mr. Pollock said he would not argue that, but he argued that this notice which was issued by the Police Magistrate could not in any way correct any errors which appeared on the face of the proceedings.

The Chief Justice—Are you arguing that the whole proceedings were bad because the charge was not amended?

Mr. Pollock said yes; that it was not amended before conviction, and that no mere notice given by the learned Magistrate after conviction would set that right. That was his first point. His second point was this: that if they were to consider the proceedings as bound down to the 28th December the learned Magistrate improperly admitted evidence as evidence of an assault on the 28th December which ought not to have been legally admitted as evidence.

Mr. Justice Wise—Of course that is the point. He has given her six months for beating her on the 28th December, and the medical evidence referred to before the 28th.

Mr. Pollock said that that was the main point upon the merits of the case.

The Chief Justice—We won't trouble you further. You are applying for leave to serve a motion.

Mr. Pollock—There is a point, and that is this: My contention is that we are entitled to ask your Lordships, in view of the fact that evidence has been improperly admitted, to say that the conviction ought to be quashed altogether.

The Chief Justice—You are moving the Court on certain grounds, and your application is for leave to serve notice of that motion on the respondent.

Mr. Pollock—Our application is for leave to appeal against the decision of the magistrate.

The Chief Justice—Of course the magistrate gives leave to appeal, and apparently under the ordinance you come before the Court for a motion. Leave to appeal has really been already granted. All the Court apparently has to do is to allow you to serve a motion on respondent.

This point was argued at some length, Mr. Pollock stating that notice had already been served upon the respondent and also upon the Registrar. Ultimately it was decided that the course suggested by the Court should be adopted, leave to serve being granted.

13th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

HARDOON V. BELILIOS.

In this case Elias A. Hardeen, an assistant in the firm of E. D. Sassoon and Co., was the plaintiff, and the defendant the Hon. E. R. Belilios, trading and carrying on business as Belilios and Co. The subject matter of the action was a claim by plaintiff against defendant to obtain an indemnity in respect of certain calls in the late Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, which on the date of the liquidation of that company were registered in the name of plaintiff and which on the same date were held and owned by defendant.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Brutton, of Messrs. Mounsey & Brutton), appeared for plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for defendant.

Mr. Francis, in an opening statement of considerable length, read the petition in the case and defendant's answer to that petition. He said that broadly it seemed to him that the one important question of fact in the case was whether at any time and when defendant became the beneficial owner of the shares in question; whether he was or was not the original purchaser of these shares; whether, if as he stated in his defence, as the original pledgee he ultimately so dealt with the shares as to make himself the beneficial owner. Dealing

with the history of the shares. Mr. Francis said that in March, 1891, the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits decided on a new issue of shares. These shares were £10 shares. At that time plaintiff was in the employ of a firm of brokers, Benjamin and Kelly, and in the ordinary course of business Benjamin and Kelly seem to have applied for a considerable number of these shares in the new issue—whether on their own account or on account of their clients they were not in a position to say at the moment, but a considerable number of shares were allotted to them, and they got Mr. Hardoon, who was then a clerk in their employ, to consent to have 50 of these shares registered in his name. These 50 shares in the ordinary course of business appear to have been almost immediately sold or disposed of by Benjamin and Kelly. Mr. Hardoon was called on to execute the ordinary instrument of transfer in respect of these 50 shares, and he executed such an instrument, a provisional certificate being issued and the name of the purchaser left in blank. That seemed to have been somewhere about the fourth or fifth of April, 1891. In June, 1891, Mr. Hardoon, in his position as clerk, did not know what was being done with these shares. He simply consented to his name being put in, and when called upon he simply signed the transfer deed. He had no beneficial interest in these shares, and was simply acting on behalf of his employers. On July 13th, 1891, these shares seem to have passed out of the hands of Messrs. Benjamin and Kelly, being deposited by defendant in the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits. A letter of credit for £110,000 sterling was obtained by Mr. Belilios upon the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits on his own personal guarantee, and he deposited with the Bank certain shares and securities. Mr. Belilios was not acting in that matter entirely for himself. He was the representative of a syndicate consisting of a number of persons interested in shares in Hongkong; he himself being one of the members of the syndicate. On the 24th of June he entered into an agreement with the syndicate, or the syndicate entered into an agreement with him, that in consideration of his obtaining for himself and for them this advance from the Bank they would deposit some Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares in his hands to the full market value of the advance, and they would also furnish him with a marginal security equivalent to \$25 per share on the 2,019 bank shares in respect of which the transaction took place. On the first of July Mr. Belilios deposited with the Bank of China 1,644 old and 375 new Hongkong Bank shares. That was the primary security, as it were, on which the money was advanced. He also on the 9th and 13th deposited with the same bank and with four other banks, part of his marginal security—50 shares called Browns and 1,600 shares in the Bank of China itself, 800 of the latter being old and 800 new issues. Among the 800 new issues he deposited these 50 registered in Hardoon's name. Their contention was that although Mr. Belilios was acting in this matter for himself and a number of other gentlemen combined together in a syndicate, and who were the owners of these 2,019 shares, he on his own personal security and personal responsibility obtained this loan of £110,000 sterling, and that as between himself and the Bank he was the sole borrower and he was the person who deposited the whole of these securities. In October, 1891, a call was made on the new issue, and a permanent certificate was issued in place of the provisional certificate which had originally been sent out.

The Chief Justice—Who paid that call?

Mr. Francis—I really cannot tell at the moment. We may succeed in getting it out in evidence. It would appear to have been paid through Benjamin and Kelly. Mr. Hardoon knew nothing about it. Continuing, Mr. Francis said that in January, 1892, some 600 shares in the Hongkong Bank which form part of the deposit were sold and the credit was renewed for another period and for a diminished amount of £72,000 odd, and in February the credit seemed to have been transferred to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. It would appear as if defendant obtained the necessary funds from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to clear off the Bank of China, Japan, and The

Straits, but in February the Bank of China shares were returned to Mr. Belilios and re-deposited with the Hongkong Bank to some account of his own which was designated "C" account, and that transaction with the Hongkong Bank was of precisely the same nature as the previous transaction with the Bank of China. Mr. Belilios had opened in his books two accounts in respect of these transactions between himself and the syndicate—the syndicate account and a special account called the marginal account. In September, 1892, both these accounts were finally closed. In the marginal account Mr. Belilios gave the syndicate credit for all the dividends received on the shares which he held as marginal security. He charged them on the other hand with stamps and transfer fees in respect of certain of these shares. He gave them credit finally for the value of those shares at the market rate of the day. The account showed a balance of \$11,250.91 in favour of the syndicate, and he divided that amount proportionately among four members of the syndicate—G. S. Coxon, E. J. Coxon, H. W. Dicks, and E. H. Melbye. Their contention was that when he closed this account Mr. Belilios appropriated to himself—took over in fact—at the market rates of the day the whole of the shares which he held on account of the syndicate in this marginal account. Unless Mr. Belilios himself was able to give them information on the subject, they did not know from whom Mr. Belilios received these particular 50 Hardoon shares. So far as they could see, Mr. George Coxon seemed to have acted as the broker or agent or representative of the syndicate. In the syndicate account Mr. Belilios only dealt with the bank shares on which the advances were originally made. He carried down a balance to the debit of the syndicate of \$67,991.72, and then he carried their respective proportions of that loss to the debit of the individual accounts of the members of the syndicate, as he had previously carried to their credit their proper proportion of the amount shown in their favour on the settlement of the marginal account. Their contention was that as the result Mr. Belilios became the sole beneficial owner of these 50 shares in Hardoon's name. In January, 1894, the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits made another call on these shares of £1 per share which had to be paid in four instalments of five shillings each in the course of that year. Mr. Hardoon had notice of this call, and he wrote to Mr. E. J. Moses, a clerk in the employ of Mr. Belilios, stating that there was no reason to suppose that the shares were not in the possession of Mr. Belilios and asking Mr. Belilios, or Belilios and Company, to pay the call then due, and after some negotiation his request was complied with. On June 29th, the same year, Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master wrote on Mr. Hardoon's instructions calling upon Belilios and Co. to fill up the transfer paper and transfer the shares out of his name, and a reply was received stating:—"The shares in question were left with us by the Messrs Coxon and as they are absent from the colony, we regret we cannot transfer them out of Mr. Hardoon's name." After remarking that Belilios and Co. paid another call later on Mr. Francis added—The next step is that the Bank of China went into liquidation in December, 1894.

The Chief Justice—I have heard something about that before.

Mr. Francis (continuing)—Mr. Hardoon was called upon to pay the balance still due on these shares, and on his non-payment an action was commenced and judgment obtained against him. Immediate notice was given to Mr. Belilios, who was called upon to pay the money, but this he refused to do. Their contention was that Mr. Belilios was on the date of the liquidation the holder and the absolute owner so far as the beneficial interest was concerned, of these 50 shares and that Mr. Hardoon was merely the registered owner, and that Mr. Belilios had recognised the relative positions of the parties by claiming and receiving from Mr. Hardoon the dividend on the shares and by paying the call prior to the liquidation, and that this was a clear admission of liability to indemnify Mr. Hardoon against these claims.

The Chief Justice suggested that Mr. Francis and Mr. Robinson should endeavour to come to some agreement as to the facts on which the

point of law arose, and then he could deal with the latter, and after some argument this course was agreed upon, the case to take the usual course if no such agreement can be come to in the meantime.

14th April.

No arrangement having been come to the hearing was continued.

Plaintiff, on being sworn, corroborated various statements made by his counsel. He said that on receiving a summons for non-payment of the call on the 50 shares registered in his name in the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, he wrote to Belilios and Co. and suggested that they should pay the call and transfer the shares out of his name into that of Mr. Belilios. In reply he got a letter from Mr. Moses, a clerk in the employ of Belilios and Co., stating that Mr. Belilios could not undertake to get the shares transferred out of plaintiff's name, adding, "The shares are not his, as he could easily prove, and if you had insisted on the transfer at the proper time he would not have had to offer any payment. The fault was yours in not demanding that the shares be duly transferred out of your name before paying any dividend." He subsequently got an order from Belilios and Co. for \$376.20 in payment of the claim, and the summons was withdrawn. He got a receipt from Johnson, Stokes, and Master, and he sent it on to Belilios and Co. In June he received a notice from the Bank to pay the last instalment of five shillings on the call due. He informed Belilios and Co. and asked them to pay the amount—£12 10s.—due, and this was done. He subsequently consulted Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master about his position, and instructed them to write to Belilios and Co. on his behalf asking that the 50 shares which appeared in his name might be transferred. The reply was:—"The shares in question were lodged with us by the Messrs. Coxon, and as they are absent from the colony we regret we cannot transfer them out of Mr. Hardoon's name." In July, 1895, he received a letter from the liquidator of the Company in regard to the list of contributories, and he forwarded it to Belilios and Co., getting the reply: "I have to inform you that I have nothing to do with the notice, as the business is yours, not mine." On receiving a letter threatening proceedings he wrote to Belilios and Co. informing them that he had been served with a writ of summons, the claim being for £378 10s., and adding, "you are well aware that these shares are your property, and that you on the 9th of March, 1892, applied to me for the dividend paid in respect of the same, on the ground that you were the holders of such shares, which dividend I accordingly forwarded to you." Plaintiff in this letter went on to say that he never had any beneficial interest in the shares, and reminded defendant of the call he had paid in respect of them. He got a reply which said: "I did not receive the shares from you. They were deposited with me by another party as security for a debt. I do not know you in the matter." Subsequently judgment was given against him in England for £392 and costs, and as the result these legal proceedings were commenced.

In reply to Mr. Robinson, plaintiff said he was not able to say whether the judgment had been satisfied or not. He had not paid the money himself. He never had any beneficial interest in the shares. When the shares were first registered in his name he never made any enquiry as to the persons who were beneficially interested in them. Messrs. Benjamin and Kelly paid the first and second instalments. So far as he had any means of knowing, they were doing this as brokers. He signed his name to the blank transfer either on the 2nd or 3rd April. He did not know at the time the person to whom the blank transfer was to be handed. When the application for the dividend came on the 9th March, 1892, he knew that the shares were then with Belilios and Co. Before then he did not know where they were.

By the Chief Justice—Benjamin and Kelly had never come forward to assist him in this matter. He left them at the end of 1892 and went to Sassoon and Co.'s a few months afterwards. As to the execution of the judgment against him, the liquidator had agreed to wait until this suit was over.

Harold Baxter, formerly accountant in the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, said he remembered the new issue of shares in 1891. He recognised the provisional certificate produced, as the one issued in respect of 50 of those shares, and he also recognised the permanent certificate afterwards issued. He also recognised the instrument of transfer produced as being identical with those issued by the Company. According to the register the 50 shares in question were in Hurdoo's name. He produced various books belonging to the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits showing Mr. Belilios's transactions with the Bank.

The hearing was further adjourned.

WOOSUNG A TREATY PORT.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO "DAILY PRESS."

SHANGHAI, 9th April.

Woosung has been made a Treaty Port.

PLAGUE ON THE "GLENTURRET."

QUARANTINED AT SHANGHAI.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Shanghai, 11th April.

The *Glenturret* arrived with six cases of plague on board and has been sent into quarantine for ten days at the Red Buoy.

[The *Glenturret*, Captain Webster, arrived at Hongkong from London on the 1st April and left on the 4th for Shanghai.]

PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA.

Prince Henry left Hongkong for Shanghai on 13th April in the *Gefion*. The *Deutschland* accompanied him out of the harbour on a trial trip and then returned to dock, as the extensive repairs which she has been undergoing are not yet completed. The Prince went up the West River on Tuesday of last week, returning to Hongkong on Friday, the 8th.

The Prince left Kiel for China on December 16th, and after visiting England again set sail on December 28th. He arrived at Hongkong on March 8th, landing at Murray Pier at half-past eleven in the morning. During his stay here he has been the guest of H.E. the Acting-Governor, Major-General Black, at Government House.

His Royal Highness during his stay in Hongkong has made himself exceedingly popular.

SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

Should war unfortunately take place between Spain and the United States one of the scenes of action would lie in the Far East, where the United States squadron would make a descent upon the Philippines. The squadron which has for some time past been lying in this harbour, is superior in fighting power to that maintained by Spain in the Philippines, and it is to be further strengthened by the battleship *Baltimore* and revenue cruiser *Hugh McCulloch*, both daily expected. The British steamers *Nanshan* and *Zafiro* have been purchased as storeships and are now flying the American flag. They have cleared at the Harbour Office for Guam. Hongkong of course would be a neutral port in the event of war taking place, and satisfactory assurances have been given by the United States, we hear, to respect that neutrality. Consequently the base from which the American squadron would have to draw its supplies would not be Hongkong, but no difficulty appears to be anticipated by the Americans, who have presumably made effective arrangements elsewhere. An American vessel with stores is, we understand, expected very shortly.

When the Spanish squadron in the Philippines has been disposed of it is believed that Manila will capitulate without any resistance on the part of the land forces, who, indeed, are hardly capable of offering resistance with the rebels in their rear and without fortifications of any consequence. It is reported that three native regiments deserted the other day with their arms.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

ANNUAL INSPECTION.

The annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was made on Thursday afternoon at the Military Parade Ground by H.E. Major-General Black, C.B., Acting Governor. The Corps mustered at Headquarters to the number of 10 officers, and 124 non-commissioned officers and men. The strength of the Corps is 177, and 20 men were absent on leave and 4 on medical certificate. The Corps marched to the Parade Ground, headed by the drum and fife band. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. H.E. the General Officer Commanding arrived on the ground at 5 o'clock, and was received with a general salute. Several interesting manoeuvres were then gone through.

At the close, H.E. Major-General Black, said—Sir John Carrington, and men of the Hongkong Volunteers, this is the end of the military year, or rather it is more politic for me to say this is the beginning of the military year, when every man must buckle to and show that he will do better in the year to come. This is the third year I have had the privilege of inspecting the Volunteers, and as I told you before, and as you know, it is no longer the part of the General Officer inspecting to speak in too high terms, to besmatter with praise the citizen soldiers who have come forward at some considerable expense of personal liberty and convenience to do their duty as soldiers. It is no longer a part of the General's duty to overpraise, but it is certainly part of his duty to speak in condemnation of what he sees wrong, and, therefore, part of his duty to say something of what he sees good. It is not from the appearance of the Corps to-day I have gathered my opinion of it, because during the whole of the year the Corps has been more or less under my observation. The main duty of a soldier is to disable those who are opposed to him, and drill is after all the mere means of getting your weapons—whether they be rifles or guns—into the best position. Here, on our mountain slopes, there is not much room for manoeuvring guns. To get the guns in position you must proceed generally by subdivisions or single guns to the spot selected, and there manoeuvre as you best can. Therefore, drill is not so important here as it is in the open country. There are here very few opportunities for drill; if we except the open space of ground near Kennedy's Stables there is no place where guns can manoeuvre—they would cut up the Happy Valley—and you are thrown back on this sloping ground. Your drill was efficient and good to-day. I noticed a slight mistake which Sir John, I think, felt more deeply than I, a slight mistake due to the absence of some of the officers and non-commissioned officers. Otherwise the drill was good, and men who voluntarily haul their guns—I was going to commit myself to the number of pounds' weight—up these slopes, are deserving of high praise. The Volunteers have turned out well; they are well dressed, and have every element of cleanliness and smartness on parade. They stand well in the ranks, which is a very good test. I have one word to say with regard to giving commands. The battery commander in giving commands must always give a caution. If he simply shouts out the word of command there is some room for doubt in the minds of the soldiers receiving the command. A caution must always precede the word of command. But this drill, as I said before, is after all a secondary part of the business; it is only the means to an end. What you have to do is to learn to smite your enemy, and from what I have seen myself, and from what I know of your practice, I think that it is good, and I think the Hongkong Volunteers need not be ashamed of the appearance they have made. It does not do to give too much laudation. There are a good many of the Corps absent, and on the day of inspection they should have made an effort to attend. The only personal blot on the public that there are so few of you, but, personally, I do not blame you so much. The War Office thinks there is want of zeal in the community. But many who have been through the ranks have done their part, and if need be they will come and offer their services again. That is so far so good, but all the more credit is due to you, gentlemen, you men of the Hongkong Volunteers, for going through the work, preparing to meet

the enemy that may never come. I congratulate you, Sir John, and I hope at the next inspection the Officer Commanding will be able to speak as handsomely of the Corps as I have.

The Corps afterwards marched to Headquarters, where Major Sir John Carrington intimated that H.E. the General had asked him to say that he had omitted to mention that the men had drilled better that day than on any previous inspection at which he had been present. The Corps was then dismissed.

SIR JOHN CARRINGTON ON "VOLUNTEERING."

On Wednesday afternoon, 6th April, Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., delivered a lecture in the City Hall, before the members of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, on "Volunteering." His Excellency Major-General Wilson Black, C.B., who was accompanied by Mrs. Black, occupied the chair, and briefly introduced the lecturer.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, after some preliminary observations, said he proposed to deal with the subject under two heads, the first and more important being volunteering in Great Britain, and the second and least important, although no doubt possessing some interest to them, volunteering in Hongkong. First of all he would give a short history of the volunteer movement in Great Britain. As they knew, volunteering did not exist in the sister isle of Ireland. It was not easy to say when the idea of a volunteer force for national defence first came into existence, but societies of national defence by means of volunteer organisation existed in various parts of the country in the reign of Henry VIII., who granted a charter in 1537 to the "Fraternity or gylde of Saint George maisters and rulers of the said science of artillery as aforesaid rehearsed for long-bowes, cross-bowes, and hand-goaves." That was now represented by the Honourable Artillery Company of London, which was the senior volunteer corps in the United Kingdom. In 1638 a branch of it was formed called the "Antient and Honourable Artillery Company of Massachusetts." They would remember that about two years ago a detachment of this company came to England and met with a very cordial reception, being received at Windsor Castle by Her Majesty. However, nothing in a real sense was done in the way of volunteer organisation until 1779. In that year there was a threatened invasion from France and Spain. The invasion was specially directed to the north of Ireland, and a body of volunteers 40,000 strong was raised in the north of Ireland for the purpose of resisting the invasion. It was successful in this object, as the invasion did not take place. Then the French wars came on. The policy of the French became more and more aggressive, with the result that between 1794 and 1804 various Acts of Parliament were passed dealing with volunteer organisation. The number enrolled rose to the highest point in 1804, when there were no less than 429,165 volunteers of all ranks and arms. Of these 70,000 were Irish. The whole force except the Yeomanry was disbanded after the peace of 1815, and nearly half a century elapsed before anything further was done. In 1843 the Duke of Wellington wrote a memorable letter to Sir John Burgoyne with regard to the state of national defence, and later on Sir Charles Napier published a pamphlet on "The defence of England by Volunteer corps and militia," which contained the true ideas on which the Volunteer movement was afterwards based. However, nothing was done until some years later. In 1857-8 the position became very acute. We had difficulties with America, we had a war on our hands with China, we were hard pressed by the mutiny in India, and the Imperial forces in the United Kingdom were at a very low ebb indeed. Beyond the garrisons and some 30,000 militia there was really no army at all in the country. The French again became very menacing, and some Frenchmen wrote a fire-eating letter to the Emperor saying they would like to be led against perfidious Albion. The authorities in England took alarm, and the result was that in 1859, on the 12th of May, the Secretary of State for War wrote a letter to the Lord Lieutenants of the counties authorising the formation of Volunteer Corps. That was the beginning of the present Volunteer movement, and

from that day to the present the movement had gained strength and force and efficiency. Enthusiasm was aroused, and throughout the country volunteers were enrolled under the Act of George III., the Act of 1804. The conditions of service, however, under that Act were found not to be quite suitable to modern times, and the result was that in 1863 the Volunteer Act was passed. In a few months in 1857-60 the total number of enrolled Volunteers was not less than 11,900. The movement at that time was chiefly in the hands of the wealthy and professional classes. At that time the artisan and labouring classes took comparatively little part in it. Royal recognition of the force was not wanting. In March, 1860, the Queen held a levy at which 2,500 officers of Volunteers were presented to her. On June 23rd, 1860, there was a great review in Hyde Park at which 21,900 men were present, and on May 7th, 1860, there was a review of 22,000 Volunteers of Northern corps at Edinburgh. The result of this state of things was that public confidence was restored. The panic had passed away, and the Government had come to see more and more that it was necessary that the movement should not be a purely volunteer movement—that was to say the funds found by private persons—but that the force should be to some extent subsidised by Government and under the direction of the military authorities. The result of this was apparently that the enthusiasm of the wealthy and professional classes died away, and their places were taken by the artisan and other classes of that kind, and they had stuck steadily to the movement, which was really now worked by them. Of course the officers were still drawn to a considerable extent from the upper classes. It became evident that a system of public grants was necessary, and in 1862 a Royal Commission was appointed to consider the question, and the system of capitation and other grants was to a great extent based upon their recommendations. One or two organisations grew up along with the Volunteer force and had some effect on its success. One was the National Rifle Association established in 1859, the first meeting being held at Wimbledon in 1860. At that meeting the Queen fired the first shot, and the ladies would be pleased to hear she dashed off with a bull's eye. (Applause.) They would not say by what means it was secured. (Laughter.) The National Rifle Association had had a career of continued success since that time. Besides this organisation there was formed the National Artillery Association. To show the steady growth and expansion of the force Sir John gave the following figures, the first column referring to the number enrolled, the second to the number of efficient, the third to the number of proficient, and the fourth to the percentage of efficient to enrolled:—

1866—181,565—142,849—	78.67
1876—185,501—174,184—15,525—	93.89
1886—226,752—221,105—18,698—	97.12
1896—236,059—229,034—19,852—	97.02

Sir John explained that an efficient was a man who had earned the capitation grant by attending a certain number of drills. Proficients were officers and sergeants who had passed a special examination. The grant for efficient was 35 shillings and for proficient 50 shillings. The system of making grants for efficient was not established until 1870. Within the last month the War Office had recognised the proficiency of the volunteer force and recognised that they really now formed an integral part of the defensive force of the United Kingdom by doing a graceful act, though perhaps it might have been done some time ago. That was to say, they had removed the Volunteer force from the back of the army list where they stood before and brought them up into line, so to speak, with the regular forces. After dealing with the legal status and cost of the force, Sir John dealt at some length with its organisation, after which he referred to some of its shortcomings, quoting in reference to the last-named point from a book written by H. Spencer Wilkinson, M.A., Captain 20th Lancashire R.V., entitled "Citizen Soldiers: essays towards the improvement of the Volunteer force." In dealing with the history of Volunteering in Hongkong, he said the wave of enthusiasm which arose in 1859 and 1860 reached this colony, but it was then at a very gentle ebb.

The only indication of it for some time was a letter in the *China Mail* of January 31st, 1860, suggesting the establishment of a Volunteer Corps in the colony. However, nothing was done for a period of about two years. On March 1st, 1862, a public meeting was held in the Court House at which it was unanimously resolved that a Volunteer force should be instituted and that the sanction of Government should be obtained for the purpose. Accordingly a corps was formed, a battery of artillery being first organised, an ordinance being passed for its legalisation. A band was formed in December, 1862, a rifle corps was added in the spring of 1863, and in December, 1862, some enthusiastic gentlemen of Canton got up a rifle company which was attached to the Hongkong corps. In February, 1863, colours were presented to the corps by Mrs. W. T. Mercer, wife of the Acting Governor. On the same occasion an inauguration dinner was held, and Mr. Dodd, the adjutant, was presented with a diamond ring by the sergeants. The first rifle meeting was held in 1863, when the medal of the British National Rifle Association was won by Mr. H. J. Holmes. They would be glad to hear that the generosity of the corps was not yet exhausted, for on that occasion they presented to Mr. Tanner, the musketry instructor, a gold watch and chain. In March, 1864, there was a review in Happy Valley, and the force which turned out on that occasion consisted of 37 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, and six guns. The Governor was there, and in fact all the town was there, and they would be pleased to hear that the Captain Superintendent of Police headed the procession with four mounted police. (Laughter.) This was the way the press of that day described the bearing of the men on the parade ground—he hoped they would agree with him that the description would apply to the corps at the present day:—"The martial bearing of the corps, the precision of their firing, and the assurance, regularity, and promptitude of every movement and evolution connected with the march out commanded the admiration of the numerous spectators." (Laughter.) When they next paraded they expected to see something in the papers in a similar strain. (Laughter.) In September, 1864, the corps was for the first and only time in its history called out for what he might call active service. There was a quarrel between some European sailors and some Malay sailors, the former contending that the latter had deprived them of their living. On Monday, September 12th, the European sailors wreaked revenge on the Malays by attacking a boarding house in Hollywood road which was occupied by Malays. There was a terrible fight. Knives were used and three Europeans were killed. Later in the evening a number of soldiers belonging to the 99th Regiment joined in the affray, which was resumed on the following evening, when one soldier was shot by an Indian policeman. The result was that the 99th Regiment was exiled to Kowloon, and the Volunteers were called out to patrol the streets and mount guard at the Barracks, and he believed they performed those duties satisfactorily. In some way or other the Governor of Macao became an admirer of the corps, and that admiration extended the length of giving the members an invitation to go over to Macao in 1864. They went, and were royally entertained by the Macao people. He supposed those who were in the corps would agree with him that that was an incident which would bear repetition in the Volunteer Corps. (Hear, hear.) At the close of 1864 the strength of the corps was:—Band 25, artillery 84, rifles (including Canton) 91, hon. members 67; total 267. After this the corps had a chequered career. It was disbanded in 1866 on account of the non-attendance of members. It was reorganised in 1877 in Sir John Pope Hennessy's time, but was again disbanded and reorganised by Mr. William Marsh in 1882. This lasted some 11 years, it being reorganised on its present basis in 1893, the first Commandant being Col. F. Farrand. The corps then consisted and did still of a battery of light field artillery, three machine gun companies each with four machine guns, and an establishment of field battery as follows:—One captain, three lieutenants, six sergeants, six corporals, and 64 gunners and privates. There were actually 103 gunners and privates, so that

they were 39 in excess of the establishment. The establishment of the machine gun company was:—One captain, two lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, and 40 gunners and privates. There were, however, seven sergeants and 37 gunners and privates. The total strength of all ranks was 176. In conclusion Sir John dealt with some of the difficulties of service in Hongkong and expressed the hope that young men would come forward and join the corps. (Applause.)

On the invitation of the chairman, Sir John was thanked by acclamation for his interesting lecture.

HONGKONG ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

"VASCO DA GAMA."

On 13th April Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., delivered a lecture in the City Hall, before the members of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, on "Vasco da Gama and the discovery of the sea route to India." Commodore Holland, A.D.C., presided over a large audience. Many members of the principal Portuguese families in the colony were present, including Mr. A. G. Romano.

The Chairman, in introducing the lecturer, remarked that to those who lived in the Far East the subject of the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco da Gama must be very interesting.

Mr. Francis said that in Portugal and throughout the Portuguese dominions in the east the fourth centenary of the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco da Gama was being celebrated this year. In Macao, commencing on the 20th of May, there would be a celebration extending over a week. In Hongkong the Portuguese Consul-General, at the request of his Government and the members of the Portuguese community represented by the Club Lusitano, intended to arrange for the celebration of the event by a three days' celebration, including a concert, a ball, and an inauguration at the club of a bust of Vasco da Gama. Why was it that this event was of so great interest not merely to the Portuguese, to whose nation Vasco da Gama belonged, but to them all? It was because it was one of the great geographical events in the history of the world. Four of these great geographical events occurred within a few years of each other—at the close of the 15th and at the beginning of the 16th centuries—these being the discovery of America, the rounding of the Cape, then the discovery of the sea route to India, and the discovery of the route through the straits of Magellan from the Atlantic to the Pacific. These great events, all coming within a few years of each other, effected almost a complete revolution not merely in the balance of trade in the centres of trade in Europe, but they also effected an almost complete revolution in the balance of power. Until the Portuguese made their appearance in the Indian Ocean the Arabs were in possession of the whole of the trade in these Eastern seas. The very first of the nations of Europe who practically took up the question of exploration not so much in search of new countries as in search of new routes to the golden East were the Portuguese. Portugal was most admirably situated for the purposes of trade and commerce beyond the sea. It had been a place of very considerable trade and importance from the very earliest days. There were numerous ports on the coast which the Phoenicians and the Carthaginians and the succeeding traders in the Mediterranean regularly frequented. The people were hardy, accustomed to war—they had been fighting for years with the Moors, they had been fighting for years with the Spaniards—they were accustomed to the sea, were full of enterprise, and completely shut out as the European nations were at that time from all trade with the East by the Mahomedans. The Portuguese were probably at that time in a better position to take up the search for new avenues of commerce, new means of reaching the East, than any other nation in Europe. The most famous name in those days—one of the most famous perhaps in the whole history of discovery and travel—was the name of Prince Henry the Navigator, who was the son of King John of Portugal and of Philippa, daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lan-

caster. He and his brother were not merely distinguished warriors, but they were for those days most learned men. They had travelled extensively over every portion of the then known world, and Prince Henry devoted himself almost entirely to furthering the progress of navigation and of trade, sending out year by year small expeditions, mainly along the coast of Africa, to search for new countries and new routes. He made a close study of the travels and voyages of Marco Polo, and accumulated a great many maps and a large quantity of information. In 1460 Prince Henry died, and there was a lull in further explorations. When King John died, however, he left three ships almost complete in preparation for an expedition to India. These ships were completed by his successor, and Vasco da Gama, an experienced navigator, a brave and adventurous son of Portugal, was appointed to the command. He set sail some said on the 25th of March, some said on the second of June, and some on the eighth or ninth of July, 1497, on the voyage which ultimately landed him at Calicut, which he reached after many hardships on May 20th, 1498, arriving back in his native country on September 18th, 1499. Two other expeditions quickly followed and further discoveries resulted. Da Gama made a second voyage, this time with 20 vessels and 800 men, being instructed to do what had not been done before, that was to establish factories in India and to leave a portion of his fleet and men in the country. These instructions he followed out, and during the whole of the 16th century the Portuguese had the exclusive control of the enormous trade in the East and Portugal might to this day have been in possession of the vast tract of country over which she acquired supremacy in those days even to the present if it had not been, unfortunately for her and her children, that the government of the country was usurped and Portugal annexed to the Spanish dominions. The result of this annexation was that before the end of another 100 years nearly all her eastern possessions had passed into other hands. Her glory in these eastern seas had departed so far so her possessions were concerned, but the glory must always remain to Portugal and the Portuguese nation who were the pioneers of trade, of commerce, of empire throughout the east. (Applause.)

On the motion of Mr. A. G. Romano, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Francis for his interesting lecture.

THE PLAGUE

During the week ended 9th April there were 106 cases of plague reported and 87 deaths, of which 21 cases and 17 deaths occurred during the previous twenty-four hours. The Board has now seven gangs at work in the city carrying out house to house cleansing, in consequence of the increase in the number of cases of the disease.

The daily abstract of cases and deaths during the past week is as follows:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
April 10...	18	17
" 11...	8	13
" 12...	9	10
" 13...	14	12
" 14...	12	11

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 8th April to consider a further report from the Principal Civil Medical Officer concerning the prevalence of bubonic plague at Canton, Whampoa, and Macao, and it was unanimously agreed to recommend the Government to at once institute a medical inspection of all steamers, steam-launches, and passage boats arriving in the waters of this colony from the above mentioned ports.

A notification appears in the *Gazette* of the 9th April proclaiming Canton, Whampoa, and Macao infected ports.

PLAGUE PRECAUTIONS.

A special meeting of the members of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon "to consider (1) the advisability of

declaring Chinese Kowloon, and the out-lying districts, Yaumati, Kowloon, and Hunghom, as places infected with plague; (2) to consider the regulations to be enforced for controlling the removal of plague patients from this colony." There were present: the President, Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer), the Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar General), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Dr. Francis Clark (Medical Officer of Health and Acting Secretary).

The PRESIDENT having stated the business before the meeting said he had a return therefrom Dr. Lowson from which it appeared that there had been six cases of plague notified this month from these three districts and admitted to Kennedytown Hospital. Personally he thought that that was quite enough to justify them in declaring these districts infected with bubonic plague. With reference to Chinese Kowloon, reports had been circulated amongst the members containing an account of a visit Dr. Lowson paid to the Hospital there last Sunday. He thought that that report proved conclusively that plague was rife there.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS asked if these cases were residents of these villages and not cases which had come from Hongkong.

The PRESIDENT—We can give you the addresses if you require them.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Because I think a great deal depends upon that.

The PRESIDENT stated where the cases had been found, all the cases coming from the localities named.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said that from Kowloon during January one case was reported, during February one, during March six, and during the last 14 days there had been 14 cases, so that the plague had increased very rapidly. Only three cases had been reported from Chinese territory this year, whilst there had been 20 cases of plague in British Kowloon.

The PRESIDENT—You cannot tell where they came from?

Dr. CLARK—Oh yes; I can give you the address in each case if you like. Having given the addresses, the doctor added: "They are scattered about."

The PRESIDENT said that the cases he had mentioned were cases taken alive from Kowloon to the Hospital. In addition there were 13 bodies which had passed through the public mortuary from Kowloon of which the cause of death has been given as plague by Dr. Lowson. Other bodies found on the Kowloon side of the Harbour in an advanced stage of decomposition were also supposed to be cases of plague.

Mr. EDE—With regard to the districts in British territory the declaration that they are affected with plague merely means that we shall cleanse them and so on?

The PRESIDENT—Yes; house to house visitation, and disinfection and cleansing of all infected houses.

Mr. EDE said that with regard to Chinese Kowloon he supposed it meant medical inspection of those who came from there, though it did not necessarily follow, because they had to recommend that to Government, and they had not done that yet. They might declare these places infected, and the next question was—What steps are you going to take? It takes a boat about five and thirty minutes to come from Chinese Kowloon to Hongkong, and he believed the boats ran half-hourly. Were all these launches going to be inspected, and when were they going to be inspected?

The PRESIDENT said the medical officers would do it.

Mr. EDE—They will have to go down there first.

The PRESIDENT said they would be inspected in the Quarantine anchorage.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—As far as I can make out the Medical Officer has more than he can do already.

The PRESIDENT—I have not been so informed.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said that the man who was doing the work on Tuesday began at six o'clock in the morning and was busy all day. He had one boat with some 1,200 Chinese coolies to deal with—or he

saw them; an examination of them was utterly impossible, he should say.

The PRESIDENT said that correspondence was now going on between himself and the Government with reference to further medical assistance for this work, so he thought they might rest assured that if further medical assistance was required it would be provided.

Mr. EDE said it would take a very long time to examine all the people who came over.

The PRESIDENT said he thought there would be very few people coming over after the first few days' medical inspection had been instituted.

Mr. EDE said the period of incubation was six to nine days, and if a patient was not near enough the time at which the plague developed for it to be discoverable when he passed here he questioned whether medical inspection would have the effect they desired.

The PRESIDENT, in reply to this remark, reminded Mr. Ede of the Chinese passenger who died on the *Fatahan* from the plague the other day on the way from Canton to Hongkong.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—That might be one case out of a million.

The PRESIDENT—But you said you would wager there would be no case.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said they had the experience of 1894. They had two doctors then and they found no plague patients. He thought himself it was time wasted. There was far more useful work to be done.

The PRESIDENT—By whom?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—By these same doctors.

The PRESIDENT—We have not got the doctors; we have to obtain them for this special work.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—But when you do get them.

The PRESIDENT—We shall not have them at all unless we have some special work for them to do.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said they would be doing more useful work in taking precautions in other ways.

The PRESIDENT thought it was the duty of the Sanitary Board to prevent the introduction of plague into the colony. They knew plague existed at Kowloon, and he thought it was their duty to declare it an infected port. Whether medical inspection was of use or not was another question.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—What does that commit us to?

The PRESIDENT—To nothing, only until we have declared it an infected port.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—One or two plague cases from Kowloon won't make one iota of difference.

The PRESIDENT said that from the evidence before them there were more than one or two cases there. There were 30 at least in the place.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Where do they come from?

The PRESIDENT—I don't know.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Most have come from Hongkong.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I cannot see where else they can have come from.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said he knew as a positive fact that some of the cases had come from Hongkong. A launch which he put on the lookout for cases found three cases going to Kowloon from Hongkong within 48 hours. The officers did not turn them back. They took their names and let them go.

The PRESIDENT thought some of the cases might have come overland from Swatow to Kowloon. When Swatow was declared an infected port last year people came overland. It was only 80 miles. From Dr. Lowson's report it will be seen that several of the cases at the Native Hospital at Kowloon (Chinese) came from Canton and Macao.

The PRESIDENT proposed "that the outlying districts of Hunghom, Yaumati and Kowloon Point be declared places infected with the bubonic plague."

Mr. EDE seconded, and the motion was carried.

The PRESIDENT said the next question was whether Chinese Kowloon should be declared an infected port. He moved that it be so.

Mr. EDE—That necessarily involves the inspection of people coming from there.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Yes, it must.

The PRESIDENT said they had certain information before them, and in the face of that information he thought Kowloon should be declared an infected port.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said they all knew it to be infected. That was not the question for the moment. The question was whether it would be a good thing to declare it an infected port.

Mr. EDE—The question is whether we shall succeed in doing any good by this medical inspection; I doubt it myself.

The PRESIDENT said that as the general opinion seemed to be against the motion he would withdraw it, and in place recommend the Board to advise the Government to communicate with the Viceroy at Canton in order to ascertain whether any precautions could be taken to prevent plague cases from Chinese Kowloon from coming over into this colony, and to prevent visitors from the plague hospital there coming back to Victoria.

Mr. EDE seconded, and this was carried.

The PRESIDENT—The next business is "to consider the regulations to be enforced controlling the removal of plague patients from this colony."

The PRESIDENT said that this matter was considered in 1896, and certain regulations were drawn up by the Sanitary Board. Personally he thought every opportunity should be given to plague patients to leave the colony, for the more who left the colony the better as far as we are concerned. He moved "that the regulations enforced in 1896 be enforced this year."

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I understand that those regulations were found to be unworkable.

Dr. CLARK seconded the motion.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE opposed the motion. He had made enquiry and found that only four applications were made in 1896, though over 1,200 cases of plague occurred in the colony. That seemed to him proof positive that the regulations were so distasteful to the Chinese that they would not adopt them. It seemed ridiculous for the Board to renew a set of regulations which had been proved by experience to be of no value whatever. It seemed to him that what they wanted to do was not to bottle up a lot of plague in this place, and have it running through a sieve, but to find out how much plague they had got and where it occurred. Until they did that they were simply living in a fool's paradise. They thought they had only 14 cases of plague a day, and they had not got the least idea whether 14 or 40 occurred. If they were going to allow plague patients to go out the colony at all let them make such regulations that plague patients would avail themselves of them. Then they would find out where their patients had gone to and where they had come from. He begged to move as an amendment, "That the removal of plague patients from the colony be permitted by the Board from certain specified wharves where officers of the Board shall be on duty to obtain the names and addresses of the patients removed, no other movement to be allowed until the address has been verified, mat sheds to be erected on the wharves for the temporary accommodation of such patients."

Mr. EDE seconded, on the mover consenting to delete the words, "no other movement to be allowed until the address has been verified."

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH and the DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS were against the amendment, which, however, was carried on being put to the meeting, the President and Dr. Clark voting against it, and the Captain Superintendent of Police, the Registrar-General, and Mr. Ede voting in favour. The Director of Public Works did not vote.

The PRESIDENT said there was another matter which he should like to refer to, and that was these bodies found dead in the streets. There were eight or nine or ten a day at the present time. He thought the Board should recommend some measure to stop this if possible. Personally he was strongly in favour of recommending the Government to allow them to cremate the bodies, that was the bodies which were picked up and which no one claimed, which were thrown out surrepti-

tiously. If this precaution were taken they would have fewer cases.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I am strongly in favour of that.

The PRESIDENT made a motion to this effect and

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE opposed the motion. He thought it would be a serious thing to adopt such a measure as that. It would be opposed to all the time-honoured customs of the Chinese. Of course it was very distressing and very disagreeable to have these bodies put into the streets. He had done his utmost to prevent it but had met with but little success. He himself was well aware of one method by which the putting into the street of these bodies might be prevented. In the year 1894 there was nothing like the same trouble about bodies being thrown into the streets and the reason was not far to seek. He was not going into that reason now, as it was not before the Board.

Mr. EDE—If you know of a method by which this is to be prevented you ought to mention it.

The motion was then put and carried, the President, the Director of Public Work, and Mr. Ede voting for it and the Captain Superintendent of Police and Mr. Brewin against it. Dr. Clark did not vote.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE VETERINARY SURGEON'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The following is the report of Mr. C. V. Ladds, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, for 1897:—

IMPORTATION OF LIVE STOCK.

During the year no cases of contagious disease amongst animals were noticed until the month of November when a serious epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease broke out at the Dairy Farm Company's premises at Pokfulum, and, spreading rapidly, very soon all the cow-sheds and cattle depôts in the colony became infected.

As the disease appeared in the different sheds these premises were declared infected areas by the Board under the provisions of Bye-laws Nos. 12 and 13 of Schedule A of Ordinance No. 17 of 1887, and the removal therefrom of any animal, carcass, fodder, litter, utensil, or other thing therein was prohibited unless with the sanction of the Board.

Simultaneously with the outbreak in the colony, the disease appears to have become general upon the mainland—all over the Canton district. In the colony the disease assumed a comparatively mild type, but amongst the native cattle upon the mainland reports reached me that in many cases it was most virulent, numbers of animals losing their hoofs, and many dying.

I was not, however, able to confirm these reports, and coming as they did from native sources it is very probable that the numerous deaths referred to were due to rinderpest, and not foot-and-mouth disease at all.

How the disease became conveyed to Pokfulum there is no evidence to show, but possibly in straw, which is procured in large quantities from the mainland.

In the case of the outbreak at the cattle depôt it was most likely introduced by infected cattle being landed from Canton whilst in the incubative stage of the disease.

Under the present system all cattle which are imported for slaughter are, upon being landed, driven direct to the permanent depôts, and though apparently healthy, they may yet be in the incubative stage of disease and so communicate it to all the rest of the animals which may be already housed therein. Whereas a quarantine period of at least 12 to 24 hours would give latent disease time to develop, and thus reveal its existence, or in any case show that the animal was not in perfect health, and so lead to its further detention for observation.

Hence the importance of having proper inspection lairs at the landing-place in which cattle could be isolated for at least 12 to 24 hours previous to their inspection and possible admittance into the permanent cattle depôt. I have repeatedly urged the necessity of such lairs from time to time, but regret that so far nothing has been done to give effect to my recommendations.

I here quote an extract from my annual report for the year 1892:—

"There is nothing to prevent a similar outbreak * in Hongkong sooner or later unless something is done to provide a proper inspection lair to which all cattle should be driven directly upon landing, there to remain at least 12 hours before being inspected and passed into the permanent depôts, or elsewhere. This is the method adopted in the United Kingdom and other countries, and even then occasional cases of disease-escape detection and so cause widespread outbreaks which are difficult to check—hence it will be easy to understand the risk which is run here, with no inspection lair at all. I reported to the Board upon the danger thus incurred as far back as 1888."

DEPÔTS.

With the exception of the outbreak referred to above, the health of the animals housed in the depôts was good. The total number of cattle admitted into the depôt at Kennedytown was 19,357; of these 147 head were rejected as unfit for slaughtering purposes, whilst at the Kowloon cattle depôt 2,243 animals were admitted, and 119 rejected.

In the swine depôt at Kennedytown 125,650 animals were admitted, and at the Kowloon depôt 12,726 were passed in. 25,977 sheep were also housed at Kennedytown depôt during the year, and 592 at Kowloon.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Victoria and Kowloon.—These two buildings are both in a good state of repair and amendment and will meet all requirements for some time to come.

Shaukiwan.—This slaughter-house is still a temporary matshed erection, although as far back as 1890 I recommended that a suitable building be erected in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of Ordinance No. 17 of 1887.

Aberdeen—is still without a proper slaughter-house, yet in my report for 1890 I remember recommending that a permanent building be erected at Aberdeen to meet the requirements of this place, Aplichau, and Little Hongkong.

The total number of animals slaughtered for the year ending December 31, 1897, at Kennedy Town, Kowloon, Shaukiwan, and Aberdeen was as follows:—

District of Slaughter-house.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Swine.
Kennedy Town	17,970	13,634	119,463
Kowloon	2,124	592	12,726
Shaukiwan	3,783
Aberdeen	1,776

Total 20,094 14,226 137,748

In order to show the large increase in the number of animals slaughtered each year since I took over the charge of these places in 1887, I insert a list giving the total number for the past 10 years.

The decrease in the number of swine killed during the year 1894, I attribute to the plague epidemic of that year, and it will be seen that its effects may also be traced into the two following years.

From the number of swine slaughtered during the past year it may be inferred that the native population has considerably increased of late.

Annual list of animals slaughtered for the past ten years, from 1888 to 1897:—

Year.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.
1888	15,972	9,420	117,432
1889	17,863	10,110	119,856
1890	18,519	10,091	123,833
1891	18,218	9,673	122,942
1892	18,180	11,571	126,766
1893	17,866	11,770	131,298
1894	16,898	10,937	125,725
1895	19,218	12,592	129,035
1896	19,546	14,693	129,103
1897	20,094	14,226	137,748

Total ... 182,374 115,083 1263,738

COW-SHEDS.

With the exception of foot-and-mouth disease which broke out in nearly every cow-shed in the colony, and is referred to previously in this report under the heading "Importation of Live Stock," no cases of infectious or contagious disease have occurred in any of these places.

Although as far back as 1889 I recommended that no cow-sheds be licensed by the Board

* This refers to an outbreak of rinderpest at Kobe when the milk supply of that settlement was entirely cut off.

within the precincts of the city, I regret to note that nothing has yet been done to consider or carry out my suggestion.

MARKETS.

Central.—The building is in a good state of repair and amendment, and most of the shops and stalls are let.

The Western Market is an old, insanitary structure, does not at all meet present requirements, and is altogether unfitted to be used as a public market.

On pointing this out in my annual report for 1890 a Committee of the Board considered the question, and in a report dated May 19, 1891, recommended that the market be re-built; but no steps appear to be taken to carry out their recommendation.

Saiyingpoo.—My remarks upon the Western Market apply equally to this one.

The building is old and inconvenient and far too small to meet the wants of the district which it supplies. Sheklongtsui, Wanchai, Sokonpoo, Yaumati, and Hung Hom Markets are all in a good state of repair and meet all present wants.

Shaukiwan.—This building is in a good state of repair, but is too small. In my annual report for 1889 I pointed this out, and recommended that accommodation for at least thirty more stalls be provided.

STAFF.

On November 7th I returned to the colony from leave and took over my duties from Inspector Fisher, who resumed those of his appointment at Kennedytown, Inspector Watson going back to the Markets as Inspector of Markets.

I am pleased to be in a position to state that both these officers performed their duties in a very satisfactory manner during my absence.

Watchman Maher resigned on January 31, and Watchman Dahling was appointed in his stead.

No other changes of importance took place in the staff and the general routine work appears to have gone on smoothly.

DR. GOMES DA SILVA AND THE HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

Dr. Gomes da Silva sends us, with a request for publication, a copy of the following letter, which he wrote to Dr. Atkinson.

Macao, 2nd April, 1898.

Dr. J. M. ATKINSON, Hongkong.

Sir,—I read the *Hongkong Daily Press* of yesterday's date, and in it I saw inserted the report of the extraordinary meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board, in which it has been discussed the sanitary state of Macao. At first I thought of writing you at once and give vent to the feeling of indignation which the perusal of the document awakened in me. I thought afterwards that the language that I would have to use, would at least be so outrageous, as the language used by some of the members of the Board, when speaking of Macao and the authorities of this colony; and what would be pardonable as a man or a Portuguese, I would not perhaps be excused as a physician. I chose, therefore, to allow the first impressions to wear off and address you in polite terms, which, in my opinion, such serious subjects as this ought to be handled. I will not lay any stress on what a Captain Superintendent of Police said at the meeting, who, for some reason it is only the English Government that can appreciate and justify, has a seat and a vote in a council which apparently ought to be composed exclusively of professional men.

First of all, the experience in Hongkong, widely confirmed by that of Bombay in the near past, shows clearly that the severe measure of house to house visitation has but one advantage in comparison to many disadvantages. The advantage is to throw dust in the eyes of the public, making a great fuss and boasting at will by the non-professionals. Among the advantages, principally, are that of spreading terror among the people, who are victims of being deprived of freedom; that of hindering the work of the prevention of diseases and of the returns, therefore in place of the police discovering the sick in their houses they only find dead bodies in the streets; that of tiring and exhausting the police agents, rendering them more liable to be victims of the epidemic, as it happened in that colony in 1894; and lastly that of causing a

violent reaction among the oppressed, as it has happened and is still happening in British India.

And it was for this reason that I read with the greatest indifference the assertion put forward by the Captain Superintendent of Police. "They knew the slack way they did things at Macao. They had no house to house visitation."

But if those reasons are not sufficient to justify my indifference, the fact alone will do that this assertion was gratuitously put forward by a layman, whose opinion may be highly appreciated in the respectable police corporation, but has not the slightest importance in the scientific world.

Of all the members of the Board who took part in the discussion only one—and unfortunately, I believe, he is not a physician—showed always an uncommon good sense, and a desire to sift the truth and only the truth, without fear. It was Mr. Ede, who proved not to be blinded by the wish of lowering of Macao to utmost discredit in which the colony of Hongkong is plunged with regard to hygienic conditions, nor by withdrawing the attention of the public in trying to make people believe that it is Macao—and not Canton, nor Amoy, nor Swatow, nor Pakhoi, nor Bombay,—the origin of the epidemic of the plague in Hongkong.

It is not, however, Mr. Ede that I shall speak of in this letter, addressed by a physician to one of his colleagues on the subject of public hygiene; but I cannot help thanking him for his impartiality and mild objections, which reveal a frank and loyal character, a love of truth, superior to all other considerations.

You wrote, and Dr. Clark read it at the meeting, that "for some months past smallpox and plague have been prevalent in Macao."

Regarding smallpox, I do not mind.

The weekly returns of deaths, sent with the greatest regularity by the Sanitary Board of Macao to the Sanitary Board of Hongkong, and the monthly returns published in due course by the *Boletim Official da Provincia*, had already shown the existence of smallpox in Macao, long before you were aware. According to these returns, the eruptive fevers, including a case of measles and another of scarlatina, and the remaining cases of smallpox, had from its commencement up to the present date made the following victims in this city, its suburbs and dependencies:—

1897, November.....	3
December.....	14
1898, January.....	21
February.....	32
March.....	29

Total.....94

The percentage of general mortality is 7½.

You and other physicians will be able to say if this constitutes an epidemic.

As to the existence of the bubonic plague in Macao during the past months, it is a pure fancy on your part, if there is no other reason to explain the assertion which you made so boldly, unaccompanied by proofs or arguments. I was informed since last January, though unofficially, that the first endemic forms of the plague had made its appearance in Hongkong. I did not attach great importance to the fact, and I will tell you why. I can well understand that the bubonic plague had entered Hongkong in 1894; what I cannot understand is how can the plague leave Hongkong once it had entered. It began under an epidemic form and took root in an epidemic form; as long as Hongkong remains as it is, the same cause acting in the same medium will always produce the same effect.

Nobody takes extraordinary measures against endemic cholera in India and Siam, nor against endemic beriberi in Java, nor against endemic smallpox in temperate countries. These measures are only adopted against the epidemic form of the great infectious diseases. If the plague epidemic were to appear this year in Hongkong, it could not be concealed for long, as in an endemic form. In due time measures should be taken, if necessary.

Unfortunately it did happen, but only in the month of March last. Singapore and Java had already declared it before Macao. Besides the ordinary measures which are usually employed in this city to prevent the development of the bubonic plague in spring, other extraordinary measures were adopted without fuss and noise, but steadily and constantly.

Thus, during the month of March two pas-

sengers with plague, coming from Hongkong, were prohibited to land and had to return there by the same steamer. But in spite of the careful vigilance employed, the preventive measures adopted this year have not, for reasons strange to the wishes of the authorities in Macao, the energy and efficiency of those that were employed here in 1894, in which Macao was absolutely free from the action of the deadly epidemic, which desolated Hongkong and Canton. The result of the deficiency of the actual measures taken was shown in some suspicious cases in various parts of the town, especially in the districts whose inhabitants have more direct and frequent intercourse with the inhabitants of Hongkong; and lastly, the sanitary returns of the week ending 27th March registered the first two deaths ascertained from bubonic plague which occurred in the city.

These are the true facts on which you should reflect.

The necrological returns issued by the Board of Health of Macao always represent, in figures, the actual deaths occurred in the city, its suburbs and dependencies, according to the diagnosis, the scientific opinion of the director of the medical-statistical department, and who is one of our colleagues.

As we have been instructed by superior authorities to make the smallest number of autopsies and with the desire to respect the customs and belief of the native population, it is sometimes possible that the doctor in Macao, especially at the commencement of an unexpected epidemic, is led to a wrong diagnosis *post-mortem*, based merely on the external appearances of the body and information supplied by relations and lodgers, who are not always trustworthy. So, the first cases of the bubonic plague only with fever of typhoid character, without any apparent complication of ganglionic system, might easily be undetected and classified as simple abdominal typhus. But what the physician in charge cannot help registering are the number of deaths occurred, from which the sanitary condition, of Macao can be judged, by noticing the increase, the condition, or the decrease of general mortality.

Perhaps you might doubt the veracity of the registration of deaths in Macao, if you suspect that the same thing happens here as in Hongkong, which is nothing but a sieve with big holes from where corpses constantly escape without being registered. But, if you reflect a little, you will see that the statistics of Macao are more exact than those of Hongkong: (1st) because Macao is a small territory, having only an area of 3 square kilometres, and a great portion of the shore is of difficult access, where, therefore, the inspection can be made with the greatest precision; (2) because the Chinaman who gives the information to the registrar pays no fee to obtain the permit for burial of the body outside the city, in ground beyond the Portuguese jurisdiction; while the relatives and lodgers who conceal the dead body, even for one day, or attempt to remove it from Macao, run great risk to be heavily punished; (3rd) because we have not in Macao the system of house to house visitation, as practised in a vexatious way in Hongkong; (4th) it is a matter of fact, that the Chinese inhabitants of Macao are more gentle and submissive than the Chinese of Hongkong.

For this reason and many other circumstances, which would be long to relate here, it follows that returns can be obtained in Macao with an exactitude which is not possible in Hongkong. Lastly, the moment that a physician becomes aware of the existence of the plague, the fact is recorded immediately on the returns of the deaths occurred, and, were it possible to conceal in an official and scientific document, what use would it be to Macao? Unfortunately, are not the preventive measures adopted regarding persons proceeding from Macao utopian and purely theoretical?

The interest to conceal an epidemic in this colony would be for the benefit of Hongkong and Canton, which owing to its constant and unavoidable intercourse with Hongkong, might be considered as suspected ports and their trade and navigation injured. But what could Macao suffer? What advantages would there be to deny the existence of an epidemic in the colony, if it really exists? It is possible that the epidemic of the bubonic plague may develop this year in Macao, now that the germ is "al-

ready here, never mind where it comes from, it is of little importance; but for the present, the epidemic is yet distant, especially as long as the general mortality, which is a true index, is kept within and below the normal limits. And this is what has happened in Macao during the last two weeks, as you can, whether with regret or not, verify by the returns, which are still forwarded to Hongkong with the greatest regularity.

It is therefore false—absolutely false—the gratuitous assertion that the plague has been raging in Macao some months ago.

Referring to the sanitary conditions of Macao in April, 1897, Dr. Clark asserts:

(1st). That he then visited the Chinese Hospital in Macao, where he did not find under treatment any patients infected with the plague, which was explained to him by the fact that all those infected by the plague were sent out of Macao.

(2nd). That when visiting the Lappa Hospital he found same plague cases under treatment among other patients.

(3rd). That he found in the Chinese cemetery several graves that had been recently covered up.

(4th). Therefore, it was to be supposed that daily there were eight or nine who died from plague.

It is a surprising conclusion, and more so is the argument, and if it did not reveal certain ingenuity it could reveal to what extent the teller could be influenced by the surroundings in which he lives and in which predominates the wish to brand Macao as a permanent focus of infection to an English colony.

A doctor comes to this colony looking for cases of plague but he finds none. He visits the only cemetery for a population of 75,000 Chinese, besides those of the neighbouring villages, who do not contribute small numbers to that cemetery. It is there, where there is generally eight to ten burials daily, that he finds some fresh graves. He visits the Chinese Hospital at Lappa and finds there nine cases of plague under treatment. Therefore—a most erratic conclusion—there die daily in Macao eight to nine plague patients!

It is a good logic indeed. It is not certainly the same logic which the eminent medical practitioner makes use of in diagnosing diseases; luckily for himself and his patients.

You attribute the measure taken, not to allow the Chinese from Macao to land in Hongkong the lucky result that there were no cases of bubonic plague in Hongkong in 1895.

The delusion, if you really had one, was dissipated in the same meeting by Mr. Ede. The Chinese in Macao in 1894 never gave up going to Hongkong; they simply went via Canton. The measure, the efficacy of which you had so much faith, appeared to have been advised by the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited.

You further asserted that when you visited Macao, recently, you met with two cases of plague under treatment. If you referred to the Chinese Hospital of Macao, which is under my immediate inspection, I can assure you you erred in the diagnosis; and I am prepared to support my opinion, because you cannot affirm that two of the patients you saw there had a high temperature, specific buboes, or any other symptoms of bubonic plague. And if you are referring to the hospital at Lappa, I have nothing to object to, because that hospital usually receives suspected cases that the Macao police send out of the city.

This is a measure that without reluctance on the part of the Chinese has given excellent results in Macao, and are far superior without doubt to those produced in Hongkong in the house to house visitation.

Captain Superintendent please notice it.

I will not demur expressing my surprise at the confidence you placed on the evidence of a Chinese medical practitioner, while you did not hesitate to throw the stain of ignorance and bad faith on your real colleagues, being, as you, qualified to the legal practice of medicine, like you born and brought up in Europe, and having, like you on the shoulders the responsibility of a duty towards the state. Mr. Ede took upon himself to shake the confidence you placed on the Chinese medical practitioners. I cannot occupy my time to compare my long medical

career and of public office with you, whom I have not even the honour of knowing; and this is the only means for us to arrive at a conclusion, which of us can inspire more confidence of the public.

Let us proceed, for the subject is arduous.

I am not aware what right you have in demanding that the returns of deaths in Macao should describe what kind of eruptive fever had caused death; as only the smallpox generally produced fatal cases in Macao; as vaccination, chickenpox, and measles are diseases that do not itself cause death; as deaths from measles and scarlatina are excessively rare in Macao; I thought it would simplify by placing in one group all deaths caused by eruptive fevers. You find this inconvenient, but you have a remedy. When you wish to know if the eruptive fevers were one or more species, you have only to ask me and I will inform you willingly. Meanwhile, if you allow me, I shall continue to call smallpox eruptive fever. Old habits are not easily put aside.

After all, this whim in wishing to separate smallpox from scarlatina and measles might be admitted, and one might understand this system of dividing the groups. What cannot be understood, much less be tolerated, is that Dr. Clark should dare assert openly at the meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board: "They (the Macao physicians?) change the names. Sometimes they call it typhoid and sometimes eruptive fever."

Who gave Dr. Clark authority for asserting that the Portuguese doctors call smallpox typhoid fever and abdominal typhus eruptive fever? Did the eminent physician see any case so diagnosed by Portuguese doctors? Has he any proof that doctors from Portuguese medical schools are quacks, ready to sell science and conscience?

Dr. Clark is wrong in so proceeding against colleagues who are as worthy of public respect as he. Science has no home, even if it were of English origin. The true physician is he who devotes his time in lessening the sufferings of humanity, and not he who puts his name, his science and conscience, at the disposal of the first who pays him to discredit those who praise, above all, the love of truth and professional honour.

Does he find it convenient to assert that the bubonic plague had been spread in Macao long ago? Do so, but do not try to bring forward proofs, because he runs the risk of being caught in the act of lying; and above all, he should not lower himself by calumniating his companions of the medical profession, although strangers and honest, because he will shame the science of which, Dr. Clark says, he is an apostle.

I will conclude, as I have written more than I intended. The Sanitary Board decided, after your communication, to establish inspection of the passengers coming from Macao. Much do about nothing. As the principal medical officer of this colony, it is quite indifferent to me that you or the Sanitary Board should take as many prophylactic measures as you deem useful to prevent the plague entering Hongkong from Macao; what I am anxious is to prevent the plague entering Macao from Hongkong. It is my duty, however, to call your attention that it does not appear to me to be becoming to a physician, and above all for an official of your standing, to come slyly to a strange house and secretly observe and then to tell what you have seen and even what you fancy you had seen. Macao is a free port and there is no customs, and therefore you have a free entrance whenever you wish to come. The gate of the Chinese hospital is open and free to all who wish to visit it, and I will not order the gate to be shut in the face of a stranger and much less in the face of one of my colleagues. Anyhow, I will give an advice which my old age allows me.

Dr. James Cantlie, who you know, favoured me and still favours me with his friendship. You will not doubt the scientific honesty of this most distinguished colleague of ours, which was lately shown in the *British Medical Journal*, in defence of the eminent bacteriologist Dr. Yersin, against the uncalled for attacks of Dr. Lowson, who, I believe, has formerly taken your place.

When he wished to know about the sanitary state of Macao, or to study the progress of diseases here, Dr. Cantlie used to write me, or

called on me, and in this way he had all the assistance which he needed, whether for the study of leprosy, or for the study of the plague and any other work. I always accompanied him with pleasure, so much so because I derived great benefit from his science, and I shall never forget his polite manners and language.

You should do the same thing. Imitate your colleague Dr. Cantlie, and you will find in me a colleague ever ready to serve you and be useful to you; as in the present circumstances you find a man ready to refute one by one the insolent inexactitudes stated or to be stated at the Hongkong Sanitary Board.

To be or not to be polite, that is the question.

That costs the same and the consequences are quite different.—Believe me to be, sir, your humble servant,

J. GOMES DA SILVA.

Chief Colonial Surgeon of Macao and Timor.

FATAL AFFRAY AT EAST POINT SUGAR REFINERY.

INQUEST ON THE BODY.

On 11th April at noon Commander Hastings held an inquest at the Magistracy touching the death of Cheng Lo Choi, the coolie who was injured in the affray at the East Point Sugar Refinery on the evening of the 6th inst.

Hubert John Giddies said:—I am the foreman at Jardine's Sugar Refinery at East Point, where I have been employed about eight months. I was previously a warder in Victoria Gaol, and before then was in the Hongkong Police Force, retiring on a pension. On the night of the 6th instant, at 11-50, I was in the "fill house" at East Point and went to the number board to see what men I had on for the second night duty. They are supposed to be in at 12, but they generally begin to come in at about 20 to 12. They work from 12 to six. I am on for eight hours. The coolies have six hours on and six hours off. They really do 12 hours in the 24. I work from ten to six. I was in a stooping position looking to see the numbers when I was struck from behind, receiving three or four blows from different persons. They struck me with their fists at first. At the same moment I heard some one call out "Ta" (meaning "beat"). I turned round and saw between 20 and 30 coolies come from the godown towards the fill house. They were armed with shovels and were calling out "Ta." The place had been lit up but the gas had been turned down. I don't know whom by. The gas was turned down instantaneously as the coolies rushed at me. I went behind the donkey engine, and as there was nothing else that I could protect myself with I picked up the wooden spade produced. The crowd was between me and the exit, and I could not get out. I edged towards the door leading to the pan-loft to prevent the coolies from getting behind me. As I stood in the door-way leading to the pan-loft seven or eight men struck at me with shovels. One was No. 72, who was convicted here the other day. He struck me on the head but I parried the blow and by so doing was struck with the flat of the shovel instead of the edge. While warding off this blow I struck out with the wooden spade and hit deceased, who was a little ahead of the others, on the head. Deceased had a shovel in his hand and was striking at me. These shovels are kept in the two upper lofts, and the coolies must have brought them down on purpose to attack me. Deceased dropped when I struck him and the others drew off for a moment. Just then Mr. Lee came down from the pan-loft and presented his pipe over the bannister at the coolies, threatening to shoot them if they did not desist. They then cleared out of the fill-house and drew up in front of the office, deceased going with them. There are 47 coolies working at one spell in the fill-house and 14 in the godowns. I was the only European in the fill-house. Mr. Lee is in the pan-loft and has one boy working with him. The only other European is Mr. Cameron, a sugar boiler in the pan-loft on the new side. At this time the old watch had not gone and nearly all the Chinese had come, so that there would be about 120 Chinese on the premises, and only three Europeans. I cannot understand why the men should attack me, except that I checked two men the previous night for leaving work before their time. I saw both of them on the night I was attacked,

one of them shouting "Ta." After the disturbance, about 12 o'clock, I and Mr. Rogers (the manager) went into the godown, where we saw deceased. He was sat down. Mr. Rogers spoke to him and he got up and went away. Deceased's head was wrapped up. About a quarter to five on the following morning I heard some coolies talking and I found they had brought deceased in and placed him on a long stool in the hall just outside the manager's office. I called the manager, and we got deceased removed to the Hospital. I did not hear the man speak. One of the coolies—the one who had been convicted—took a shovel up to me about two months ago because I took up the wrong basket, but he did not strike me.

Dr. Bell said—At 7.30 a.m. on the 7th inst. deceased was admitted to the Government Civil Hospital in a dying condition. He had a scalp wound about five inches long at the top of the head. He died about 11 o'clock the same morning. I made a post mortem examination in the afternoon. There were no external injuries except the scalp wound. Underneath the wound the skull was fractured right across. There was a large blood clot on the left side of the brain. The cause of death was hemorrhage, the result of the fracture. An instrument like the wooden spade produced might have caused the wound. The result would have been the same had the man been attended to at once.

James Lee said—I am a sugar boiler at East Point Refinery. I have been there about 12 months. I was in the pan-loft at ten to 12 on the evening of the 6th instant, when I heard a noise proceeding from the room below. I ran to the stairs, and on looking under the bannisters saw 25 or 30 coolies armed with shovels and bamboos attacking Mr. Giddies, who was trying to keep them back with a wooden spade like the one produced. I could not see clearly as the gasses were low at the time. I shouted out and then ran to my jacket and took out my pipe, which I presented at them, this causing them to clear away. I did not see any blows struck except those aimed at Mr. Giddies. I saw that his hand was cut and his head swollen, and I remarked, "I'm surprised you are not killed." I only had a pan-boy upstairs with me.

Alexander Rogers said—I am manager at the East Point Sugar Refinery, where I have been employed for about 19 years. I was in my own house about 12 o'clock on the night of the 6th instant when I heard a noise over at the works. I ran over and outside the refinery I saw some coolies who were making a noise. I called out to them as I was going along "What's the matter," and they ran off towards the main gate. I went into the part of the refinery where Giddies should be, but did not see him there. I then went to the flat above, where the pans are, and found him there along with the sugar boiler, Mr. Lee. I asked him what was wrong and he told me he had been attacked by about 20 coolies. His hands were bleeding and he was holding his head. We went downstairs and in the godown—a building outside the proper refinery—we saw a man sat down holding his head. I asked Giddies whom he was, and he replied that he was one of the ring-leaders. I told him to get up and go away and the man went away. There was not much light in the place and I did not think he was wounded. About half-past four the following morning a man whom I took to be the same was brought and laid down on a seat in my hall. I sent for the police at once, and the man was taken away. We have little disagreements now and again with the coolies, but they don't come to fighting.

A Chinese constable said—On the 7th about 4.45 a.m. I was on duty at Jardine's Bazaar when an Indian came and took me to Jardine's Sugar Refinery. I saw deceased on a bed rolled up in a blanket. I spoke to him but he did not answer. I delivered him alive at the hospital.

Wong Foo, a prisoner in Victoria Gaol, undergoing three months' hard labour for assaulting Mr. Giddies on the 7th instant, said—My number in the East Point Refinery was 72. I know nothing about the affair. I was going to my work at the time. There was no fighting when I got into the refinery. I did not see deceased.

Lam Ma Sing said—I am employed at Jardine's Sugar Refinery. On Wednesday night last week I was working in the refinery

when a man went away from his work. When he returned Mr. Giddies assaulted him, saying that he had been away too long. Mr. Giddies afterwards took up the wooden spade and struck him with it on the head. The man fell to the ground and bled. Mr. Rogers came and saw the man lying on the ground down below. I work upstairs. I heard a great noise and I ran down. Deceased was making a great noise just as he was about to be struck. No one else called out. We left the man there until about four o'clock, and then when we saw he was going to die we took him to the office. I want your worship to see into this matter.

Tung Ho said—I am a sugar scraper in the refinery. I was there on the evening of the 6th inst. A man who was working with me left his work at about 11.30. He came back and on his return he was assaulted by Mr. Giddies, I was upstairs when I heard somebody call out, and as soon as I got down I saw Mr. Giddies take up the wooden spade and strike deceased on the head with it. I don't know what had happened before I heard the cries. The men were then all quietly at their work, deceased being the only one who was crying out. After he had been struck on the head deceased fell to the ground and Mr. Giddies ran away, going to a place just opposite. Myself and three others went up to deceased and asked him what was the matter, and he replied, "I went to the beach to obey a call of nature and on my return I was assaulted by the European." Seeing that deceased could not move we informed his brother who lives outside, and deceased's brother went for the manager, Mr. Rogers. Deceased was then in the exact place where he fell when he was struck. Deceased was there for an hour, and he was afterwards carried out to the coolie house.

Commander Hastings said that as a jury he was quite satisfied of the untruthfulness of the last two witnesses.

A verdict to the effect that death was caused by fracture of skull caused by a blow struck by the foreman in self-defence was returned.

THE CHINA MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the directors submitted at the annual ordinary general meeting of shareholders, held at the offices of the Company, No. 3, Billiter Avenue, London, on the 22nd March, 1898:—

The Directors beg to submit the general balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ending 31st December, 1897, duly audited.

The net profit, including the balance brought forward from last year, and after providing for the general expenses of the current year, Directors' fees, income tax, interest, &c., amounts to £53,368 4 11. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the preference shares was paid on 1st October, 1897, amounting to £5,020 16 0.

Leaving a sum of £48,347 8 11

which it is proposed to apply as follows:—

To "Depreciation, Boiler and Reserve Fund" 37,000 0 0 (thus raised to £123,769 17s.) In payment of a further dividend of 3 per cent. on the preference shares 5,020 16 0 In payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares (£5 paid) 5,020 16 0 Balance to be carried to New Account 1,305 16 11 £48,347 8 11

Although from unavoidable causes, the line has been worked during the past year with a smaller aggregate tonnage and at a somewhat greater cost than in 1896, the directors have satisfaction in presenting accounts which exhibit a substantial improvement in the net earnings.

As usual, the fleet has been maintained in thorough order and condition out of current

revenue, and the Company has enjoyed complete immunity from loss or very serious accident. The *Moyune*, however, whilst on her homeward voyage, struck on an unknown reef in the Sulu Sea, but got off without assistance; and, after satisfactory repairs at Singapore, resumed her voyage on the 18th February last. The court of enquiry decided that the captain was not in any way to blame.

The *Kesmun*, built in 1890, was sold in the early part of the year, and in order to keep up the efficiency of the service, the directors have recently entered into further contracts for the building of three new steamers.

The following directors, Mr. J. A. Maitland and Mr. H. D. Stewart retire by rotation, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The auditors, Messrs. John Baker & Son and Mr. Jamieson Elles, offer themselves for re-appointment.

It is proposed that the dividends shall be paid, both in London and the East, on 31st March, 1898. The transfer books will be closed from the 14th to 23rd March, inclusive.

The Company's fleet now consists of:—

	Tons Gross Register.	Nominal Horse Power.
S.S. Hyson, Capt. J. S. Hogg	4,445	850
" Kintuck, " C. dela Perrelle	4,447	850
" Teenkai, " G. W. Long	4,642	800
" Moyune, " C. H. Kemp	4,646	800
" Pak Ling, " H. L. Allen	4,447	850
" Kaisow, " E. Warrall	3,921	850
" Oopack, " J. Barber	3,833	650
" Ching Wo, " H. C. Harris	3,883	650
" Oolong, " H. W. Evans	3,583	550
" Ping Suey, " D. Davies	3,079	750
" Oanfa, " J. A. Davies	3,065	750
" Ningchow, " W. H. Cross	2,708	480

DAVID REID,
Chairman.

London, 12th March, 1898.

BALANCE SHEET TO 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

	Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To capital—							
16,736 preference shares, fully paid-up.....		167,360	0	0			
16,736 £10 ordinary shares, on which £5 per share have been paid; upon 1,231 of these £5 per share have been paid in anticipa- tion of calls		89,835	0	0			
					257,195	0	0
To bills payable		173,365	17	11			
To depreciation, boiler and reserve fund		8,769	17	0			
To insurance fund		17,336	1	0			
To net receipts on account of uncom- pleted voyages		30,507	3	1			
To sundry creditors		33,482	6	5			
To balance of profit and loss account	53,368	4	11				
Less dividend at 3 per cent. on the prefer- ence shares for six months, paid 1st Oc- tober, 1897	5,020	16	0				
					48,347	8	11
					£652,053	14	4
	Cr.						
By amount of purchase account of steamers, &c.		646,159	13	5			
By office furniture, and cargo stages, &c.		500	0	0			
By sundry debtors		831	12	3			
By cost of stores and coals in the East.		2,817	19	11			
By cash at Bankers and on hand		1,744	8	9			
					£652,053	14	4

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT TO 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To general expenses, including remuneration to directors and auditors, rent, salaries, income tax, stationery, &c.				5,913	12	8	
To interest				8,523	9	5	
					£14,437	2	1
To balance				53,883	4	11	
					£68,320	7	0

	Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By balance from last account	89,532 1 4		
Less—			
Dividend paid March, 1897, 10,041 12 0			
Amount placed to credit of depreciation, boiler and reserve fund ...	28,000 0 0		
		38,041 12 0	
			1,490 9 4
By profit realized		66,314 17 8	
			£67,805 7 0

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager:—

Mount Macdonald,
11th March, 1898.

I have the honour to report up to date 11th March, 1898.

Queen Mine.—Cross cut drive at 350 feet level extended total 30 feet, ground hard and dry with strong westerly underlay, similar to ground met with in shaft after passing through main wall; will drive an additional 10 feet and then put in a drill hole several feet to prove the country before resuming sinking as per last report. Contractors for re-erecting. Battery making fair progress and doing first class work.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their Mining Manager:—

Mount Macdonald,
11th March, 1898.

I have the honour to report on the above mines as follows:—

Eureka Mine.—300 feet level, extended drive on reef a total of 32 feet; reef from 7 to 8 feet wide; solid and well defined between two good walls and shows gold. During the coming fortnight a chamber will be cut on the eastern side of shaft; chamber sets put in and timbering completed to bottom; also ladder way, after which driving of levels North and South will be resumed at once. Winze to connect the 200 with the 300 feet level sunk a total of 25 feet; reef from 7 to 8 feet wide; in appearance equal to any yet seen. Stopes above the 150 feet and 200 feet levels yielding sufficient ore to keep the 20 head employed; could double our present output from stopes already opened up.

Eureka B shaft sunk 33 feet, timbered 25 feet; work suspended here pending an opportunity to let the work on contract. We are at present engaged cutting bye-washes from the lower battery dam to carry the storm water away, so as to prevent the water carrying away our tailings, etc., on to the adjoining Company's ground.

Crushing, winding plant, and all underground workings in first class order.

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the Manager at the mines:—

Mount MacDonald,
14th March, 1898.

Great Eastern Main Shaft has been sunk a further depth of 11 feet, making a total depth from brace of 152 feet. The country in the bottom of the shaft is softer and better shooting ground, but carries more water than the harder country. Should the good shooting ground continue down to the 200 feet level, we will then be able to do the cross-cutting at a very small cost.

Caledonian Main Shaft is down a further 10 feet, or a total depth of 103 feet from brace; we have now much better breaking ground, but still a great lot of water. During the last fortnight the average quantity of water bailed has been over 7,000 gallons per day, but this is a great gain on the previous quantity of 18,000 gallons. When the old workings are drained I expect to

have little water to contend with. Such a quantity of water of course gives us a lot of dead work, and makes the sinking rather costly, but this trouble once over, the shaft should go down at a reasonable price.

Zulu Main Shaft is now down to 103 feet from brace. During the last five days no sinking has been carried on owing to a stage having been put in at the 70 feet level, and the men are now driving south on the reef, which is 18 inches wide, to get out a few tons of quartz to be sent to Messrs. Knox, Schlapp & Co., Melbourne, for an expert report as to the best mode of treatment, very important to us, as the stone carries a lot of rich mineral, not treatable by a simply battery. This opinion will come to hand quickly, and be an independent one from Krupp. As far as can be seen the Zulu reef is highly payable. All the stone taken out so far will yield not less than two ounces per ton, but of course before the extent of the reef can be proved a fair amount of development work must be done. I can only say the prospects up to date are very good indeed. I am sure that if the Zulu, Rise and Shine, and Bank of England, all on the same line of reef, were well opened up, they would prove a first class property, not counting the probability that they would form one solid reef at a depth.

Prospecting Shaft Gold Lease 37.—This has been sunk a further depth of 12 feet, making a total depth of 107 feet from brace. There is nothing fresh to report in this shaft. It is making a little more water, which in this case may be taken as a sign of being close to a lode, but we are still in broken country, and the water might come from cracks or floors in the rocks. The good main walls with a very even underlie are still going down with the shaft, which gives one good hopes of cutting the reef in this part of the property. I think we are too shallow yet, for the chutes have all a very strong dip north on the main line of reef.

Surface Works.—We are enlarging the stable and making improvements to the store room prior to the setting in of the cold weather. Dam.—The contractor starts to-day.

The General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited (Messrs. Lutgens, Einstmann and Co.), inform us that they received a telegram on Thursday from the mines at Mount MacDonald informing them of the discovery of a new lode in one of their shafts. The telegram is as follows:—“Bank of England shaft. Lode in bottom of shaft. The total width is three feet. One contains visible gold.”

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

The following is the thirty-sixth report presented at the half-yearly meeting held at Yokohama on the 10th March:—
To the Shareholders.

Gentlemen:—The directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank, and profit and loss account for the half-year ending December 31st, 1897.

The gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including yen 251,303.148 brought forward from last account, amount to yen 4,747,514.988, of which yen 3,440,747.393 have been deducted for current expenses, interest on deposits, &c., leaving a balance of yen 1,306,767.595 out of which yen 63,327.800 have been written off for officers' remuneration.

The directors now propose that yen 200,000 be added to the reserve fund, increasing it to yen 5,964,000; yen 100,000 be added to the reserve for equalization of dividends, thus increased to yen 696,000 and yen 50,000 to be set aside for the contemplated new building. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of fifteen per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 450,000 on the old shares, and yen 168,750 on the new shares, making a total of yen 618,750.

The balance, yen 274,689.795, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SOMA,
Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 10th March, 1898.

POLO.

The final match in the first tournament for the second cup very kindly presented to the Club by Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., was played on Monday last, the opposing teams being:—

THE KING'S OWN REGT. V. THE R.A. & R.E.
Mr. Johnson Mr. Nugent, R.E.
Captain McLachlan Mr. Des Vœux, R.E.
Captain Paton Captain Burney, R.A.
Major Gawne Captain Tancock, R.A.

Captain Tancock took Mr. Bannerman's (R.E.) place at the last moment, the latter officer being becalmed on the high seas between Macao and Hongkong in a well known sailing yacht, with no rations on board, we hear, with exception of a loaf of bread—presumably Macao, as that was his last port of call—and two hard boiled eggs (black?).

The day was fine and the ground in very good order, and there was a good attendance of spectators.

Shortly after starting the ball was carried down to the King's Own goal and after a lot of give and take play on both sides the Regiment forced the R.A. and R.E. defence and Johnson hit the first goal scored at the Nullah end. After the throw in Major Gawne got hold of the ball and worked it up towards his opponents' goal, and backed up by Johnson the latter would have scored again had not Nugent saved well with a back-hander just in front of his own goal. Shortly after this “a foul” was given against the Regiment. Burney taking the hit failed to equalise matters, Paton getting it well away from dangerous proximity to his own goal post. Now several attacks were made on the R.A. and R.E. goal, the Regiment seeming to have rather the best of the game and should have scored once or twice if the shooting had been less erratic, i.e., if direction had been brought into unison with the amount of powder behind the shot. “Hit hard and always in the direction of your opponents' goal.” Des Vœux now brought the ball away and made a good run down the left side of the ground, and failing to bring it into the centre, by overriding, Burney, who was backing him up well, centred the ball and Tancock hit a good goal with a back-hander. On the throw in Des Vœux received the ball on the near side and after two or three very good near side strokes ended up with a sub. at Kennedy's end. Now the bell rang, score being 1 goal and 2 subs. all. This was a good quarter, well contested and very evenly matched.

Shortly after restarting the game Tancock scored a sub. Some good play was now shown by McLachlan and Johnson, and Tancock, to save his own goal, hit behind, and McLachlan took a “corner,” but although he centred well the ball was got away by Nugent and Tancock. There was now a slight interval for change of ponies. On recommencing operations Burney hit a sub. with a nice long shot, shortly followed by a goal scored by Des Vœux. After the throw in Des Vœux was again *en evidence* and making a very fine run down the ground ended up with a very nice goal. Some goodish play was now shown by Johnson and McLachlan, but they failed to increase their score. Burney now brought the ball down the ground, helped by Tancock, and the latter hit a goal with a pretty long shot. Half a minute more to play, and in 17 seconds Burney caused yet another goal to be marked up to his side, the R.A. and R.E. thus winning by 5 goals and 4 subs. against 1 goal and 2 subs. The Regiment seemed to fall to pieces rather in this quarter and were outclassed, Des Vœux and Burney being rather too much for them, whilst Nugent defended his goal very well, putting in several useful backhanders just when they were wanted, and Tancock played remarkably well considering the fact that he has not played polo for two years and has never put his leg across a China pony before. Johnson and McLachlan played well, but we have seen them both to better advantage. Major Gawne played an unselfish game and Paton at times put in some useful work.

The Cup was not on the ground, but is expected by the incoming English mail.

Lieut. Colonel The O'Gorman very kindly umpired.

BAMBOO ROOT.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP FOR APRIL.

Twenty-four members entered for the above competition, and the win goes to a long handicap man with gross rounds of 50 and 56, whose case will have to be treated by the committee. The greens, thanks to some gentle rains, have lost their fiery nature and are again in excellent condition. Following are the returns sent in:—

Mr. K. McK. Ross	106	24	82
Mr. J. F. Noble	103	18	85
Mr. J. Thurnburn	97	11	86
Dr. J. Bell	102	15	87
Mr. G. Stewart	91	3	88
Mr. A. S. Anton	92	3	88
Mr. E. R. Hunter	107	18	89
Mr. N. Taylor	99	10	89
Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N.	98	8	90
Mr. G. Millward	105	12	93
Mr. H. W. Slade	107	15	92

24 entries.

POOL.

Dr. J. Bell	102	15	87
Mr. G. Stewart	91	3	88
Mr. E. R. Hunter	107	18	89

eight entries.

DEEP WATER BAY LINKS.

On Easter Monday a party of twelve members spent a very enjoyable day on these links. The day was bright and fairly cool and a very good luncheon was supplied by "A. Kau." In the forenoon one round of the links (10 holes) was played for a cup presented by last year's Captain under handicap and medal play, and the afternoon was devoted to foursomes, 20 holes being played. Result of the morning's play:—

Dr. J. A. Lawson	44
Mr. G. Millward	49
Mr. J. Jackson	50
Mr. G. Stewart	50
Mr. E. A. Ram	51
Mr. C. W. May	51
Hon. W. M. Goodman	54
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	56
Mr. W. J. Saunders	57
Mr. H. W. Looker	65

Messrs. Thurnburn and M. Stewart made no returns.

In the afternoon, Messrs. Goodman and May ended up all even with Messrs. Dalrymple and Looker; Messrs. Jackson and Lawson were one up on Messrs. G. Stewart and Thurnburn, whilst Messrs. M. Stewart and Millward defeated Messrs. Ram and Saunders by 5 up and 3 to play.

THE LAWN TENNIS HANDICAP.

The following are the first ties in the Cricket Club Lawn Tennis Tournament:

CHAMPIONSHIP.

H. Pinckney	bye	G. D. Campbell	bye
C. B. Simonds	bye	J. E. Jones	bye
E. F. Mackay	bye	S. W. Farie	bye
E. H. Jellicoe	bye	J. M. Atkinson	bye
H. W. Slade	bye	H. S. Moberly	bye
		G. W. Millward	bye

DOUBLE HANDICAP.

H. S. Moberly and G. D. Campbell	owe 15 2	bye
W. M. Mayson and A. H. Skelton	owe 15 3	bye
S. W. Farie and E. H. Jellicoe	owe 15 3	bye
E. J. Grist and O. D. Thomson	owe 15 1	bye
H. Crombie and E. Barrett	owe 15 3	bye
H. Pinckney and E. F. Mackay	owe 15 3	bye
E. C. Shepherd and E. J. Hughes	owe 15 3	bye
E. M. Hazeland and A. H. Hollingsworth	owe 15 3	bye
A. H. Mancell and J. R. Capell	owe 15 3	bye
H. S. Cooke and A. Mackenzie	owe 15 3	bye
G. A. Woodcock and H. A. Lammert	owe 15 3	bye
H. Humphreys and R. E. Humphreys	owe 15 3	bye
G. Millward and H. W. Slade	owe 15 2	bye
C. B. Simonds and H. S. Langhorne	owe 15 2	bye
R. E. Belilios and J. G. Smith	owe 15 2	bye
S. R. Fletcher and J. H. Morrah	owe 15 2	bye
H. J. Gedge and Wei On	owe 15 2	bye
W. K. Low and J. E. Thomson	owe 15 2	bye
S. G. Neville and E. L. Boothby	owe 15 2	bye
T. W. Hornby and J. D. Danby	owe 15 2	bye
J. Jackson and P. Wodehouse	owe 15 2	bye
J. M. Atkinson and T. S. Smith	owe 15 2	bye
E. M. Knox and A. Donald	owe 15 2	bye
P. Morris and E. Deacon	owe 15 2	bye

"A" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

J. H. Morrah	owe 15 2	bye
C. B. Simonds	owe 15 2	bye
G. Millward	owe 15 2	bye
E. R. Morris	owe 15 1	bye
H. S. Langhorne	owe 15 1	bye
H. W. Slade	owe 15 1	bye
G. P. Lammert	owe 15 1	bye
S. W. Farie	owe 15 1	bye
R. E. Humphreys	owe 15 1	bye
H. Harrison-Smith	owe 15 1	bye
O. D. Thomson	owe 15 1	bye
G. D. Campbell	owe 15 1	bye
E. F. Mackay	owe 15 1	bye
A. H. Skelton	owe 15 1	bye
E. Deacon	owe 15 1	bye
J. M. Atkinson	owe 15 2	bye
E. J. Grist	owe 15 2	bye
G. R. Vallings	owe 15 1	bye
E. L. Boothby	owe 15 1	bye
S. G. Novilo	owe 15 1	bye
W. Warren	owe 15 1	bye
H. Pinckney	owe 15 1	bye
H. S. Moberly	owe 15 3	bye
W. M. Mayson	owe 15 3	bye
P. de C. Morris	owe 15 3	bye

"B" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

E. Barrett	owe 15 1	bye
E. M. Knox	owe 15 1	bye
A. H. Mancell	owe 15 1	bye
H. S. Cooke	owe 15 1	bye
E. J. Meugens	owe 15 1	bye
E. M. Hazeland	owe 15 1	bye
H. J. Stevens	owe 15 1	bye
A. H. Hollingsworth	owe 15 2	bye
P. Wodehouse	owe 15 2	bye
G. A. Woodcock	owe 15 3	bye
H. A. Lammert	owe 15 3	bye
J. B. Duncan	owe 15 3	bye
J. F. Noble	owe 15 1	bye
M. W. Slade	owe 15 1	bye
H. M. Elliott	owe 15 1	bye
J. R. Capell	owe 15 1	bye
A. Donald	owe 15 1	bye
H. A. Seth	owe 15 1	bye
J. Grant-Smith	owe 15 2	bye
R. E. Belilios	owe 15 2	bye
A. Mackenzie	owe 15 2	bye
J. Danby	owe 15 2	bye
S. R. Fletcher	owe 15 2	bye

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL PAIRS.

A. L. Cay and J. E. Jones	owe 15 3	bye
H. S. Langhorne and P. S. Dyson	owe 15 3	bye
E. F. Mackay and H. W. Slade	owe 15 3	bye
C. B. Simonds and W. Warren	owe 15 3	bye
P. Morris and E. Deacon	owe 15 3	bye
H. Anton and H. Pinckney	owe 15 3	bye
E. J. Grist and O. D. Thomson	owe 15 3	bye
H. J. Gedge and Wei On	owe 15 3	bye
W. M. Mayson and A. H. Skelton	owe 15 3	bye
T. S. Smith and J. M. Atkinson	owe 15 3	bye
H. S. Moberly and G. D. Campbell	owe 15 3	bye
H. Humphreys and R. E. Humphreys	owe 15 3	bye
E. Hazeland and A. Hollingsworth	owe 15 3	bye
G. Millward and E. R. Morris	owe 15 3	bye
H. Crombie and E. Ba rett	owe 15 3	bye
S. W. Farie and J. R. Jellicoe	owe 15 3	bye

VETERAN'S SINGLE HANDICAP.

T. S. Smith	owe 15 3	bye
J. M. Atkinson	owe 15 3	bye
J. Hastings	owe 15 3	bye
S. G. Bird	owe 15 3	bye
G. Stewart	owe 15 3	bye
W. Taylor	owe 15 3	bye
H. S. Cooke	owe 15 3	bye
P. S. Dyson	owe 15 2	bye
C. D. Wilkinson	owe 15 2	bye

The following are the results of the first ties:—

CHAMPIONSHIP.

Slade beat Jellicoe.
Farie scratched to Atkinson.
Jones scratched to Campbell.

DOUBLE HANDICAP.

Pinckney and Mackay beat Crombie and Barrett.
Hazeland and Hollingsworth beat Shepherd and Hughes.
Mancell and Capell beat Cooke and Mackenzie.
Humphreys and Humphreys beat Woodcock and Lammert.
Simonds and Langhorne beat Millward and Slade.
Belilios and Smith beat Fletcher and Morrah.
Gedge and Wai On beat Low and Thomson.
Neville and Boothby scratched to Hornby and Danby.

"A" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

Langhorne beat Slade.
Campbell beat Thomson.
Mackay beat Skelton.
Grist beat Vallings.
Pinckney beat Warren.
Harrison-Smith scratched to R. E. Humphreys.

"B" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

Hazeland beat Stevens.
Wodehouse beat Hollingsworth.
Slade beat Elliott.
Donald beat Capell.
Grant Smith beat Seth.
Duncan scratched to Noble.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL PAIRS.

Mackay and Slade beat Simonds and Warren.
Gedge and Wai On beat Grist and Thomson.
Smith and Atkinson beat Mayson and Skelton.
Millward and Morris beat Hazeland and Hollingsworth.
Cay and Jones scratched to Langhorne and Dyson.
Morris and Deacon scratched to Anton and Pinckney.
Farie and Jellicoe scratched to Crombie and Barrett.

VETERANS' SINGLE HANDICAP.

Taylor scratched to Stewart.

It is unfortunate that circumstances necessitated the scratching of the Naval competitors, this somewhat marring the interest of the Tournament.

STRAITS INSURANCE CO.

Within the last few years we have wound up two insurance companies of Singapore. It has now to be considered whether the time has come to wind up the third and last remaining insurance venture,—the Straits Insurance Company. It is but a day or two since we published the report and accounts of that Company; and they tell a dismal tale. In another column we give very briefly certain extracts from the latest report of the Straits Insurance Company, and from the report of a year previously. From these figures and statements, it will be seen that the final winding up of the year 1896,—a year that was supposed to be most amply and fully provided for—has ended in a huge loss that has swallowed up all the reserve funds of the Company, and all its surplus assets and everything but its capital. The final result then of fourteen years of trading is that the Straits Insurance Company, taking everything in the most favourable light, has its capital intact. But has it really got its capital intact? The result of the trading of the year 1897 does not profess to be disclosed in the latest report. All that that report states is that the balance of underwriting account for the year 1897 amounts to \$219,000, and is carried forward. As against that statement, there is forced on us, from well-informed quarters, the theory that the losses of the first three months of 1898, losses chargeable to the year 1897, are upon such a scale that it is quite impossible that the underwriting balance carried forward for 1897 can cover the losses of 1897. In plainer words, it is represented to us, by persons versed in insurance, that the capital of the Straits Insurance Company is not really intact, but the known and reasonably expected liabilities of 1897 will inevitably make a substantial hole in that capital. It is further argued that inasmuch as the Company is admitted to be restricting its business and cannot so readily restrict its expenses, and since the Company cannot expect to obtain a preference in first class business, therefore the outlook for the future is likely to be even worse than the results of the past. It is further represented to us that inasmuch as each twenty-dollar share carries with it a liability for eighty dollars, and inasmuch as there is now no reserve fund upon which to fall back, the position of the shareholders must be exceedingly uncomfortable. On all these contentions, it is urged upon us that the Straits Insurance Company ought to be wound up. Subject to some definite and precise contradiction on the part of the Directors of the Straits Insurance Company, we are disposed to think that that Company ought to be wound up. The only contradiction which can be of value, we think, would be a definite statement of the losses applicable to the year 1897 incurred or expected during the first three months of 1898, and a precise assertion, on the part of the Directors, that they are reasonably confident that the 1897

accounts will show a profit. And even such a precise assertion might not carry very much weight, since it was represented, a year ago, that the Chairman and Directors then anticipated a profit from the working of the year 1896,—the very year which has proved so disastrous to the Company. In further considering the matter, it is impossible to avoid noting that the twenty-dollar shares of the Company are only saleable at twelve dollars, and that the person who holds such a twelve-dollar share has to carry with it a liability to pay up, if need be, a further sum of eight dollars. Obviously then, if by any arrangement of selling the business or re-insuring risks, it were possible to wind up the Company on the nominal basis of the recently issued report, there might arise a very substantial advantage to the present shareholders. If the existing floating business could possibly be got rid of in such a way as to avoid further losses, it might then be that the liquidators would be able to realize from the assets something approaching twenty dollars, which is the nominal value of each share. If that could be done, nay, if only fifteen or sixteen dollars per share could be realized, that would be a substantial advantage to the man who holds a share which is only worth twelve dollars at present, and which carries the liability to pay eighty dollars further.

While we are very reluctant to suggest the winding up of further Straits adventures, it seems relevant to point out that such windings up as have lately taken place have on the whole been amply justified. Within the last few years the liquidations of public companies have included the Singapore Insurance Company, the Straits Fire Insurance Company, Sayle & Co., the Tanjong Pagar Land Company, and some half-a-dozen minor concerns. In the cases named, there is the best reason to believe that all the ventures were hastening to ruin, whereas in each case liquidation has resulted in something very substantial being saved for the shareholders. In considering whether such a concern as the Straits Insurance Company should be wound up, it must be remembered that no man would even dare to suggest, now-a-days, the formation of a new insurance company with its headquarters in Singapore. It has become universally recognized that the founding of new insurance companies is too risky a business to be undertaken at this time of day in such a place as Singapore, and with the limited capital that can be subscribed in the East. If, then, it be universally admitted that the founding of a new insurance company would be madness, there is on the face of it a very strong reason to doubt the wisdom of continuing a company that in fourteen years has not succeeded in establishing itself in a profitable business, and which has, at the very best no assets in excess of its capital. The carrying on of such a concern, the re-constructing of its ways so as to turn it into a profitable business, amounts, in substance, to the establishment of a new company. It is, no doubt, primarily a matter for the shareholders whether they shall wind up now or take the further chances of fortune. It is primarily their matter, but it is not entirely their matter. The community has some moral right to have a say on the subject, inasmuch as it would be the good name of the community that would suffer if there should come, in later years, any disastrous failure of a company called the Straits Insurance Company, with its head office in Singapore, and Singapore merchants as its directors. Nor is this right of the community to have its say an inoperative right. The community has, if it should choose, the means of making its right a real and operative right. Insurance Companies, more than any other concerns except banks, live upon popular credit and esteem, and without that popular credit and esteem they must die. Whether the Straits Insurance Company is to enjoy a continuance of credit and esteem must depend very largely upon the attitude of the Directors at the general meeting that is to be held ten days hence. It will not be sufficient that the Board shall ignore these criticisms. It will not be sufficient that the board shall answer these by some general statements as to the probability of making a profit—for the notorious falsification of the Board's prophecy of a year ago would render any general prophecy

now of no avail. If the Board wish to avoid liquidation, or to evade a popular distrust that might ultimately compel liquidation, the Board must honestly confess all losses that are in any way known or supposed, since the date of the closing of the accounts. If these losses have been exaggerated by popular rumour, there is still a possibility of a prosperous life for the Company; but it is, at best, a possibility. Still, if the Board wish to take advantage of that possibility, let them take the public fully into their confidence.—*Straits Times*.

A FRENCH JOURNAL ON THE POLICY OF THE OPEN DOOR.

In an article on British policy in the Far East, especially with reference to the claim for commercial freedom and equality for all, the *Echo de Chine* (Shanghai) says:—

It must be recognised that the rule which the British Government wishes to adopt in the China Seas is passably honest. But in order that it should on this ground be imposed on all the world, in order that the European Governments may give it the unreserved approbation which Mr. Curzon claims for it, it is necessary that England should apply the rule, not only in the regions and under the circumstances in which she thinks she has a direct interest in applying it, but everywhere and always, even when it goes contrary to her own ambitions, even when she may thereby advance the rights and interests of others as opposed to her own. Now this is not what happens. Does not England remember that the Royal Niger Company has claimed to monopolise for its own exclusive profit the trade of the lower river, in despite of the stipulations of the Berlin Convention; that she has so far neglected the principles under which she now seeks to shelter British trade in the Far East as to interdict the navigation of the rivers to Lieut. Mizon, who wished to establish openings for French trade, and even so far as to seize, contrary to the law of nations, a vessel flying the French flag with its cargo? Commercial liberty, be it understood, will remain a very respectable principle, but the nation which lightly violates it for its own profit whenever occasion serves cannot with good grace invoke it when it wishes to injure others.

SERIOUS FIRE IN SHANGHAI.

A disastrous fire occurred in Shanghai on Saturday night, 2nd April, as the result of which the Haikuan or Customs Bank in Szechuen Road was completely burnt out. The alarm was given at 10.57 and in a very short time afterwards the flames had a firm hold on the buildings and contents. Though at present nothing is known as to the origin or cause of the fire it was evident from a glance at what little is left standing that the outbreak occurred in one of the upper rooms. The flimsy wooden interior formed ready fuel for the flames and despite a large attendance of firemen and a plentiful supply of water coupled with the fact that it was raining hard at the time it was impossible to save the place. The firemen, however, worked extremely hard and well and no small amount of praise is due to them for their success in saving the adjoining property. The damage is as yet hard to compute, but it must be very considerable. We understand that the furniture and contents were insured with one of the companies for which Messrs. Barlow & Co. are agents. A curious and regrettable circumstance has to be reported in connection with the fire. The Hongkew division of the brigade dashed up to the scene of the conflagration with their hose and reel, and immediately they arrived the pony was taken out of the truck, as usual. He walked a few yards and fell down dead, having done his duty to the last.—*N. C. Daily News*.

As the result of a visit he paid to the Magistracy on Thursday Santiago Payne, foreman scavenger, is at least \$15 poorer, being fined \$5. or 14 days, for using obscene and insulting language towards a widow, with whose son he was playing cards on Tuesday afternoon, and \$10, or a month, for creating a disturbance on the same occasion.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Heavy rain fell on the 3rd instant in the districts of Saichin and Fa-un, lasting about three hours. As there is still no rain in Canton, the Viceroy and Governor, who have been praying for it daily in the temple of the gods of the sea, have appointed the 8th instant to go to the temple in Polo village, about forty li from Whampoa, to hold a service there.

Rice being so dear in Fatshan, the Government distributed three catties to each poor person on the 1st instant. Tickets authorising them to get the rice were first distributed through the tipaos, who, being the most hard-hearted fellows, seized this opportunity as their best chance of squeezing. They would not allow the poor people to have the tickets till they paid them some eighty or a hundred cash. Their mean acts were at last discovered by the sansz, who at once sentenced them to Yau Ying.

Some sansz have sent a petition to the Viceroy asking to be allowed to finish the reclamation work on the river bund, which has been discontinued since the arrival of the late Viceroy Li Hon-Chang. The Government has taken the question into consideration.

The branch office of the Chinese Imperial Bank under the direction of Sheng Taotai was opened on the 2nd instant. The office is established in Ho Pun street.

On the 27th ultimo at 1 p.m. over one hundred robbers made an attack on a pawnshop in Yeungchan village. When they arrived, they ordered the neighbouring shopkeepers to close their doors and keep silent otherwise they would be all plundered and destroyed. They then divided themselves into two parties, one of which broke into the pawnshop to discover the valuables, while the others placed themselves at the entrance of the house and at the various gates. The inmates of the pawnshop were all tied up and their mouths gagged. A shopman in one of the neighbouring houses, who was more daring than the others, climbed up to the roof to beat gongs and shouted out loudly to give the alarm. When the lukongs and a number of villagers arrived on the scene, the robbers fired on them. The encounter lasted till 7 p.m., when the robbers had collected all the valuables together and began to get away. They then embarked in their long boats and rowed safely away. Two lukongs and a villager were fatally shot and a number were wounded. The number of dead and wounded on the side of the robbers is not known. The booty amounted in value to twelve thousand dollars.

On the 10th instant an expectant Totai named Choi, who was sent by Sheng Totai, General Director of the Peking and Hankow Railway, called on the Viceroy to discuss the question of constructing a railway between Hankow and Canton.

Rain fell heavily on the 7th and 8th inst. in the districts of Samsni, Waichow, and all the surrounding districts of Canton. Still it is not sufficient for cultivation for there had been so long a drought that all fields were perfectly dry.

A robbery was committed in a prepared opium shop in Sintongmoon on the 3rd instant by three armed robbers. The occupants of the house were only a married couple. When the robbers entered the husband offered resistance and caught hold of one of them. The man who was being held thereupon killed the husband with a blow of his sword. The wife sprang forward to give assistance to her husband and was also wounded. The robbers tried to make their escape, when the kaifong people were alarmed. One of the robbers was arrested. The prisoner confessed that he was a robber, but denied that he committed the murder.

The Namhoi Magistrate, at the request of the British Consul, has instructed the lukongs to strictly prohibit the slaughtering of sick and diseased cattle and to find suitable places to bury the carcasses. It is said that rinderpest has broken out in some places near Canton.

On the 11th instant at noon a sudden gale was experienced in Canton. All the small boats had a rough time, many of them losing their awnings, while some were driven ashore and suffered great damage. A small boat was capsized, but luckily no lives were lost.

SAIGON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Saigon, 7th April.

There have again been a good many fires in Saigon and in the native town of Cholon and Insurance Companies have suffered heavy losses. It is now contemplated to establish a special fire brigade, and steam fire engines have been ordered, as the hand pumps of the Chinese hongas are wholly insufficient. At the Cholon fires the fine steam fire-engine of the Ban 'Toa Guan rice mill is always first on the spot and under the direction of Mr. Lim Keng, the Manager, and Mr. Richardson, the chief engineer, does immense service.

Quarantine of nine days, including the voyage, has been established on all vessels arriving here from your port. This seems to happen now every year. You should watch more strictly the movements of vessels and passengers in your harbour.

The Government has established some new taxes. A three-cent stamp must now be affixed to each ten-box packet of matches. Dealers, profiting by this, have increased their price, and a packet now costs ten cents retail instead of three cents as formerly. Salt is now a monopoly and is sold at \$1.65 a picul or two cents per kilo.

The Messageries Maritimes steamer *Arethuse*, which has been employed on the branch line between Saigon and Haiphong, has been sold by auction for \$24,000, the purchasers being Shanghai people.

The demand for rice, especially for Japan, continues as strong as ever, and prices are going up, notwithstanding a fine crop.

HONGKONG.

The visit of Prince Henry of Prussia to Hongkong was brought to a conclusion on Wednesday when he left for Shanghai in the *Gefion*, the *Deutschland* following the day after. The latter vessel has undergone extensive repairs while in Hongkong. Another important event of the week was the inspection of the local Volunteers on Thursday afternoon. They made a most creditable show, and the observation of the Acting-Governor, Major-General Black, that "the Hongkong Volunteers need not be ashamed of the appearance they have made," was thoroughly deserved. At the inquest on Monday on the body of the coolie who died from injuries received in the affray at East Point Sugar Refinery the previous week a verdict to the effect that he died from a fractured skull inflicted by foreman Gillies in self-defence was returned. An interesting lecture on "Vasco da Gama, and the discovery of the sea route to India" was delivered before the members of the Odd Volumes Society on Wednesday afternoon. An important meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday, a long discussion taking place with reference to the plague.

A Government notification was issued at Manila on the 31st March imposing nine days' quarantine on arrivals from Hongkong and other ports infected with bubonic plague, the period occupied by the voyage to be included in the said nine days.

A large congregation assembled in St. John's Cathedral on 12th April for the purpose of witnessing the wedding of Mr. Henry Humphreys, son of the late Mr. J. D. Humphreys, and Miss Eva Humphreys, daughter of Mr. W. G. Humphreys, of this colony. The Rev. R. F. Cobbold was the officiating clergyman, the sisters of bride were the bridesmaids, and Mr. J. A. Jupp was the best man. The altar had been prettily decorated for the occasion with flowers and foliage.

A Chinese named Chau Yee Choi, who was undergoing one month's imprisonment for stealing, committed suicide by hanging himself in his cell on 9th April. An Indian warder last saw the man alive at ten minutes past eight in the morning, and on visiting him again a quarter of an hour afterwards he found him hanging by his trousers strap from the gate of his cell. He at once cut him down. Deceased was admitted into the Gaol on the 5th inst. An inquest was held on 11th April, and a verdict of "suicide by hanging" was returned.

Craigieburn is to be opened as an annexe to the Peak Hotel on the 1st May.

There were 2,617 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 198 were Europeans.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. J. Grant Smith has been recognised as in temporary charge of the Peruvian Consulate-General during the absence from the colony of Mr. Felipe S. Mesa, or until further notice.

Commander Hastings had some more gamblers before him on 11th April. On Sunday night Sergeant Macnab raided the coolie quarters at 23, Deep Water Bay, and found about 20 men engaged in playing pai pau. They all got off except five, each of whom was fined \$3 or 14 days.

The following telegram has been received from the British Minister to Bangkok:—
 “Bangkok, 9th April, 1898. Governor, Hong-kong.—Bubonic plague all vessels from Hong-kong shall call at Kohphae and complete nine days from date of sailing before receiving pratique.—BRITISH MINISTER.”

At about three a.m. on 11th April a fire was discovered to have broken out at a tobaccoist's shop at No. 288, Queen's road West. The alarm being given Inspector McDonald and a staff of firemen from No. 7 Station turned out and also some men from No. 5 Station. They found some bales of tobacco on fire and the first floor of the premises, which are two storeys in height, had also become ignited. Having rescued the inmates without much difficulty the firemen set to work to extinguish the flames and to prevent the outbreak affecting the adjoining premises. They succeeded in this, though not before the first floor was burned out and the ground floor considerably damaged. The damage, which is estimated at several hundred dollars, is not covered by insurance. The cause of the fire is not stated.

In his report for 1897 Mr. J. R. Crook, Sanitary Surveyor, says:—Permission has been granted in fewer instances for the erection of water closets and urinals, and it has been almost entirely for new business premises on the Reclamation. With an ample water supply such as I trust now exists the water carriage system is far cleaner and more sanitary than the system of hand removal where dry earth is not applied. It is worthy of note that in 1870 the Rivers Pollution Commission (Mersey and Ribble) reported that slop-waters from kitchens containing animal and vegetable refuse rapidly becomes more offensive and, contrary to what at first sight would seem to be the case, it is quite as strong and as foul as the sewage from a water-closeted town. If this be so then the community would not suffer by the introduction of water-closets into European houses, and there is no question as to their being a great convenience.

A coolie named Leung On was brought up on remand at the Magistracy on 11th April on a charge of unlawfully wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm one Leung Hop, a boarding house keeper living at 35, Stanton Street. According to the evidence of a chair coolie who lodges at the address given, defendant came into the house at about seven o'clock on the evening of the 7th instant, and complainant asked him why he had not paid the \$1 rent he owed for a month's lodging. They then began to quarrel and to push one another about. A barber who lives in the same house was sharpening some razors at the time, and defendant snatched up a razor and cut complainant on the neck. Defendant then ran out. The chair coolie followed him and defendant, turning round, struck at him with the razor and cut him on the arm. Defendant was subsequently arrested at 26, Bridges Street by P.C. Faherty, who found the razor in a small tin canister with a lot of chop sticks. Complainant was taken to the Hospital. He appeared at the Magistracy yesterday with his head and neck bandaged. He bore out the chair coolie's statement, adding that as defendant owed him a dollar he tried to prevent him from taking away his bed board. Dr. Bell said that when admitted to the Hospital complainant was suffering from a cut in the neck from the chin to the left ear. Defendant denied injuring complainant but charged complainant and his brother with setting upon him. Defendant was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

The maximum temperature last month was 79.8, on the 31st, and the minimum 53.2, on the 10th, the mean for the month being 64.3. The rainfall amounted to 0.17 inch.

Luk Lam, who keeps a small draper's shop at 34, Jervois Street, was on 12th April fined \$25; or two months, for having in his possession a certain measure not according to the standard measure of the colony.

At the Magistracy on 13th April the master of the German lorch *Gem* was charged with unlawfully neglecting to cover a deck load of dangerous goods—kerosine oil—while being waterborne in Victoria Harbour on the 10th inst. Inspector Kerr stated the case, and a fine of \$25 was imposed.

Commander Hastings held an inquest at the Gaol on 13th April on the body of a prisoner named Wong Ngan, who died in the Hospital on the previous day. He was sentenced about a month ago for returning to the colony after having been banished therefrom. The doctor said that death had been caused by exhaustion due to multiple abscesses on the liver, and a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned.

Lam Cheong, Tam Chun, and Li Tsui were the disturbing elements in an opium divan in Queen's Road West on Wednesday evening. Ho Yau, a hawker, was in the divan with defendants and others when he dropped a ten cent piece on the floor. He took up an opium lamp to look for it, when Cheong objected and asked him to return it and because he did not do so struck him on the head with an earthenware pitcher. The other defendants told Cheong to strike him. For the assault Cheong was fined \$10, or a month, and for creating a disturbance each of the other defendants was fined \$5, or 14 days.

An entertainment was given in the Kowloon Dock Recreation Room on Wednesday evening by the Star Minstrels of H.M.S. *Immortalité*. The first portion of the programme took the form of a "nigger" show, the second part being miscellaneous. The ship's band was in attendance. The entertainment was a very enjoyable one, and was much appreciated by a crowded audience. The following was the programme:—

PART I.

Opening Chorus, "Ra ta ta Ta,"Troupe.
Song, "Bring me a letter from Home"	Mr. Smith
" " "A Dollah am a haudy Ting"	Mr. Stephens
" " "Thinking of Home"	Mr. Harman
" " "Razors in the Air"	Mr. Meehan
" " "When the golden sun went Down"	Mr. Kicks
Chorus "We're All on de Road"Troupe.

Interval.

PART II.

Selection,	"Round the Town"	Band.
Song, ...	"The Recruiting Sergeant" ...	Mr. Weeks
"	"One of the early Birds"	Mr. Cocks
Dulcimer Solo		Mr. Langdown
Sketch, "A Dreadful Tragedy" ...	{	Mr. Cocks
		" Stephens
		" Smith
Violin Solo		Mr. Sharp
Song,	"Gorgonzola Cheese"	Mr. Grant
"	"Our Lodger"	Mr. Smith

"You are altogether too haudy with your cane" was the observation which Commander Hastings addressed at the Magistracy on 11th April to Lance-Corporal Lucena, who had charged one of the boys at Queen's Road Barracks with assault. Private Patrick Hastings said that on going into the coffee shop on Saturday night to buy some cigarettes he saw the Lance-Corporal, who was behind the counter, put his hand to his side. Defendant, who was close to complainant, had a two-pronged fork in his hand. On complainant pulling his trousers down witness saw blood trickling down his side. There seemed to have been a row. An assistant in the coffee shop said he heard complainant scold defendant and then saw him strike him, and on witness endeavouring to separate them complainant hit him in the eye, which was still marked. Defendant had no fork in his hand. Another assistant said complainant came into the shop and asked for some meat. Defendant went for some, and on his return complainant upraised him for being so long away and then assaulted him. Complainant got his injury through falling against some mineral water bottles. Being of opinion that the Lance-Corporal was to blame the Magistrate only bound defendant over for a month in the sum of \$10.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. the Acting Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments with effect from the 7th inst.:—Captain F. R. Loveband, the West India Regiment, to be Private Secretary; Lieut. T. D. L. Whittington, the King's Own Regiment, to be Aide-de-Camp, vice Captain F. R. Loveband, who temporarily vacates that appointment.

The Kowloon ferry service is being turned into a limited liability concern under the name of The Star Ferry Co., Limited. The capital is \$100,000 divided into 10,000 shares of \$10 each, of which \$7.50 is payable on application and the balance when called for. The directors are Messrs. A. Haupt, C. S. Sharp, and E. S. Wheeler, and the Secretary Mr. E. Osborne. The share list closes at 3 p.m. on Friday.

An exemplary fine was imposed upon Chin Sing, a shop-keeper, at the Magistracy on 12th April, for unlawfully mooring his boat at Praya West while loaded with dangerous goods—kerosine oil—for a longer time than the period allowed, on Monday. His boat was stationed at the place named for 45 minutes whilst the maximum period allowed is 15 minutes. He was fined \$30 (or six weeks' hard labour), this being at the rate of a dollar for every minute he offended.

A coolie named Tam Sung was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, and to receive 18 strokes on his admission to the goal and 18 strokes towards the conclusion of his term, for stealing a pair of earrings of the value of \$10, the property of Tam Tai Kam. Complainant said that as she was walking along Hollywood road on Monday midnight defendant came up and pushed her from behind, and as she was falling snatched both her earrings. She called out and defendant ran away. She ran after him and he was ultimately caught by a constable.

As P.C. MacSwayed and P.C. Smith were going along Queen's Road on Tuesday evening they came across a seaman who had been reported as having absented himself from his vessel—*Olympia*, one of the American squadron—for six days. The man's name is H. J. Horn, and he hails from New Brunswick. MacSwayed asked him to come to the station, and as he refused he, with the assistance of Smith, arrested him. They then had a very rough time, as about a dozen of Horn's ship mates endeavoured to rescue him. In the melee MacSwayed got a tooth knocked out. Chief Inspector Hansen coming on the scene the man was secured and taken to the Police Station, being subsequently conveyed to his ship, where another rough scene ensued.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 1st April.—Tsatlces and Re-Reels.—No stock, quotations only nominal. We can state nothing reliable as yet regarding the 1st crop. It is generally feared that the yield will be short owing to scarcity of leaves through want of rain. Filatures.—Have been in little demand during the fortnight. From prices paid we quote: \$780/770 for Kwong Shun Cheong and Kwong Sun Hang 11/13 and 13/15, \$750 for Kwong Sun Oo 12/14, \$745 for Kwong Lun Fung 11/13, \$740 for Kai Sun Cheong 13/15, \$730 for Wing Hing Lun 11/13, \$720 for Shun Kee 11/13, \$715 for Kun King Cheong 13/15, \$700 for Kwong King Loong 11/13, \$690/680 for Victoria 10/12 and 11/13, \$645 for Hing Lun 11/13, \$620 for King Wo Cheong 18/22. Short-reels.—Have remained exceedingly quiet and holders have slowly given way before the firmness of exchange and the dullness of the New York market. From prices paid we quote: \$710 for U. Hau Cheong 14/15, \$700 for Chun Sun Hang 14/16, 680 for Koun King 14/16, \$680 for Yut Cheong Wo. Waste.—Quiet. Stocks.—Tsatlces, nil. Filatures, 6/800 bales.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	11,240	5,084
Canton	11,296	4,199
Yokohama	31,360	19,686
	53,896	28,969

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	46,588	41,557
Canton	21,890	23,318
Yokohama	18,130	18,284
	87,176	86,159

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—The market is weaker and prices have declined. Quotations for Formosa are \$15.00 to \$45.50. Sales, 300 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—The market continues dull and a further decline has to be reported. Quotations are:—

Shackloong, No. 1, White	\$7.25 to 7.28	per cwt.
do. " 2, White	6.97 to 7.00	"
Shackloong, No. 1, Brown	4.82 to 4.85	"
do. " 2, Brown	4.70 to 4.72	"
Swatow, No. 1, White	7.12 to 7.15	"
do. " 2, White	6.86 to 6.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	4.75 to 4.78	"
do. " 2, Brown	4.62 to 4.65	"
Eschoos Sugar Cane	11.20 to 11.25	"
Shackloong	9.96 to 10.00	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Thames*, sailed on the 2nd April. For Manchester:—51 bales waste silk. For London and/or Manchester:—30 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case silk piece goods and 3 cases curios. For London:—1 case silk sashes, and 1,208 boxes tea (25,347 lbs. congou). For France:—448 bales raw silk, 1 case silk piece goods, and 30 packages tea.

Per German steamer *Ceres*, sailed on the 2nd April. From Hongkong for Marseilles:—5 cases essential oil. For Havre:—1,375 rolls matting, 250 cases camphor, 100 boxes cassia, 67 cases Chinaware, 57 bales canes, 45 cases paper, 32 cases blackwoodware, 26 cases bristles, 20 cases aniseed oil, 14 boxes cantharides, 16 cases feathers, 3 boxes bambooware, 2 cases silk, and 2 cases human hair. For Havre option Hamburg:—70 boxes canes, 44 bales bamboo, and 7 cases human hair. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—435 cases camphor, and 50 cases staraniseed. For Hamburg:—1,000 cases cassia, 624 bales canes, 250 bales broken cassia, 200 cases cassia buds, 129 rolls matting, 145 bales rattan shavings, 82 cases crackers, 76 cases bristles, 57 cases palm leaf fans, 21 packages sundries, 20 cases vermilion, 20 bales palmbark, 13 cases woodware, 13 cases lanterns, 11 boxes and 10 casks preserves, 10 cases essential oil, 10 cases cassia oil, 10 cases seawood canes, 8 cases Chinaink, 5 cases Chinaware, 5 cases blackwoodware, 1 case paper, and 1 case feathers. For Hamburg option London:—100 boxes bristles, and 20 bales Chinareet. For Antwerp option Bremen:—5 packages feathers. For Copenhagen:—18 packages merchandise. For Boston:—50 boxes cassia. For Lisbon:—9 packages China and lacquered ware.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—Bengal.—There has been some improvement in prices owing to the fall in the exchange on India, although transactions have been very meagre. The market closes quiet at \$7.0 for New Patna, \$720 for Old Patna, \$697½ for New Benares, and \$695 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—There has been very little doing in this drug. Current prices are as under:—
New (2/3 yrs.) \$820 with allowance to ½ cattie
Old (1/6 ") \$860 " " of 0 to 1 "
" (7/8 ") \$920 " " of 0 to 1 "

Persian.—Prices are unaltered, latest figures being \$490 to \$630 for Oily, and \$540 to \$66½ for Paper-wrapped, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—
New Patna..... 520 chests
Old Patna..... 902 "
New Benares..... 586 "
Old Benares..... 352 "
Malwa..... 190 "
Persian..... 844 "

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Apr. 9	692½	707½	691½	692½	800	
Apr. 10	692½	707½	691½	692½	800	
Apr. 11	695	712½	693½	695	800	
Apr. 12	697½	717½	695	695	800	
Apr. 13	698½	720	695	695	800	
Apr. 14	700	720	697½	695	800	
Apr. 15	70	720	697½	695	800	

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—Small business has been put through; market closes weak. Stocks, about 3,250 bales.

Bombay..... \$16.50 to 19.00 p. pl.
Kurachce..... " to " "
Bengal (New), Rangoon, } 17.50 to 19.50 "
and Dacca..... " "
Shanghai and Japanese..... 21.50 to 22.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo..... 21.50 to 23.00 "
Madras (Best)..... " to " "
Sales: 575 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—There have been large arrivals and prices are easier. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordina y.....	\$3.35 to 3.40
" Round, good quality.....	3.75 to 3.80
" Long.....	4.00 to 4.05
Siam, Field, mild cleaned, No. 1.....	3.65 to 3.70
" Garden, " No. 1.....	4.05 to 4.10
" White.....	5.05 to 5.10
" Fine Cargo.....	5.20 to 5.25

COALS.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—Cardiff.—Stocks very small; Sales of 8,000 tons at \$35 to \$40 reported. Japanese.—Sales of 25,000 tons at \$9 to \$12. Quotations are:—

Cardiff.....	\$25.00 to 40.00 ex ship, steady.
Australian.....	\$11.00 to 13.00 ex ship, steady
Mitli Lump.....	10.50 to 10.75.
and Small.....	
Moji Lump.....	7.75 to 10.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay Lump.....	9.00 to —
Hongay Dust.....	4.8 to —
Briquettes.....	10.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—830 bales No. 10 at \$77½ to \$86½; 530 bales No. 12 at \$83 to \$88½; 100 bales No. 16 at \$93 to \$96; 989 bales No. 2 at \$9½ to \$102. Grey Shirtings.—2,800 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$2 to \$2.02½; 700 pieces 7 lbs. Lion at \$2.70 pieces 7 lbs. Shrimp at \$2.90 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$3.10 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Jos. No. 2 at \$3.02½; 300 pieces 2 Fish at \$2.90; 500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$4.10; 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. 5 Man at \$3.90. White Shirtings.—150 pieces S.Q. at \$4.55; 1,500 pieces gold goose at \$4.47½; 500 pieces gold Elephant at \$4.85; 500 pieces OOO at \$5.40; 500 pieces F.F. at \$5.25; 1,700 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.10 to \$5.12½; 1,000 pieces Flower at \$5.10; 1,000 pieces D. 70 at \$3.77½; 500 pieces No. 30 at \$3.72½; 500 pieces Gulp Phasant at \$3.55; 500 pieces No. 575 at \$4.50; 500 pieces 18 Reed at \$2.22½; 500 pieces No. 3 at \$3.57½; 500 pieces X 7 at \$4.10; 500 pieces X 8 at \$4.15; 500 pieces O 61 at \$5.35; 300 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.02½; 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.22½. Victoria Lawns.—1,000 pieces at \$0.64. T-Cloths.—3,750 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.43 to \$2.45; 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Horse and Stag at \$3.15; 500 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Horse at \$2.82½; 1,250 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$2.12½; 300 pieces 8 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.77½. Drills.—150 pieces 14 lbs. No. 260 at \$3.70; 76 pieces 16 lbs. Eagle at \$4.90. Turkey Reds.—500 pieces 5 lbs. Flute-man at \$3.57½.

METALS.—Iron.—4,500 bbls. Nail Rods Belgian No. 1/6 at \$1.30. Tin.—100 slabs Siam at \$11.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	72.00 to 102.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	109.00 to 116.00
" 22 to 24.....	112.00 to 117.00
" 28 to 32.....	123.00 to 127.00
" 38 to 42.....	131.00 to 138.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.....	1.75 to 1.85
7lbs.....	2.03 to 2.07½
8½ lbs.....	2.50 to 3.20
9 to 10 lbs.....	3.40 to 4.15

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.40 to 2.60
58 to 60 ..	2.75 to 3.45
64 to 66 ..	3.55 to 4.40
Fine	4.35 to 7.15
Book-folds.	3.80 to 5.70
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.65 to 1.50
T-Cloths—Glbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.55 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ..), ..	1.90 to 2.15
Glbs. (32 ..), Mexs.	1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 ..), ..	2.10 to 2.80
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.40 to 3.25
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14lbs	3.75 to 5.15
FANCY COTTONS	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 7lbs.	1.50 to 5.00
Brocades—Dyed	3.00 to 5.00
	per yard
Damasks	0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	3.08 to 0.14
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.20 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.17½ to 0.18½
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.45 to 0.90
	per yard
WOOLLENS	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.51½ to 1.40
German	1.15 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 5.25
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 9.00
Assorted	6.60 to 9.10
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted }	12.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain	7.00 to 8.50
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	5.50 to 14.00
	per picul
METALS	
Iron—Nail Rod	4.20 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ..	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar	5.75 to —
Small Round Rod	4.60 to —
Hoop	5.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	1.50 to 3.00
Wire 13/25	9.25 to —
Lead, L. B. and Hoe Chop ..	8.65 to —
Australian	8.60 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	32.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	31.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	31.00 to —
Composition Nails	— to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	35.00 to —
Tiles	29.00 to —
Tin	— to —
	per box.
Tin-Plates	6.10 to —
	per cwt. case.
Steel ½ to ¾	5.50 to —
	per picul
SUNDRIES	
Quicksilver	130.00 to —
	per box
Window Glass	4.35 to —
	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil	1.89 to —

SHANGHAI, 7th April.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—As by general consent it is decided to close the mail to-day instead of on the 11th instant, in order not to interfere with the Easter holidays, which this hard worked community feel themselves entitled to keep, this report only covers a very short interval. The uncertainty regarding the political situation, depicted in our last, has continued to have a restraining influence on buyers and there is little more than the particulars of the Auctions to chronicle. Although according to the advices received from the Northern Ports trade there is, or was, practically at a standstill, clearances here are not at all unsatisfactory. Tientsin, however, has still a large quantity of goods already there to move off, and a fair proportion of the purchases made before China New Year for delivery during March and April have still to be shipped, so it is unlikely that much more will be required for a month or two at least for that market. Newchwang is just opened, but as there is a scarcity of money there, apparently, it is not anticipated that the market will display any great activity; advices so far, however, are very meagre. C. efuo appears to be overawed by the presence of the largest fleet probably that has ever been seen in those waters, which not unnaturally causes an uneasy feeling. There is no particular feature about the River markets or Ningpo; a quiet but steady business is being carried on, as evidenced by the clearances. As regards this market there is little to report. The dealers are apparently just feeling their way; there is a fair amount of enquiry, but the business done is very small. A few makes are conspicuously quiet, notably 8.4 lbs. Shirtings. At the Auctions

the bidding was languid and prices went in many cases in favour of the buyer. The steadily rising Exchange during the week has not facilitated business.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 15th April.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.34½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.38½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.89
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	139
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	139
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74
Private, 30 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	8 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2½ % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.66
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	55.75

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—The market has ruled a little quieter, with sellers of most stocks, but rates have been fairly well maintained and close steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—The small demand reported last week continuing without sales the rate gradually rose to 191 per cent. prem., at which a few small lots changed hands for cash. At time of writing the market is a little easier with some sellers of ordinary lots at 190. Small odd lots, however, are still difficult to get. Nationals remain unchanged with a small business at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found buyers at \$64 and \$63 and more shares are wanted at the latter rate; on time some have been placed at \$66 for June and July. Unions have been negotiated at \$217½ and \$220, but more shares are wanted at the latter rate without bringing out sellers. Straits have ruled weak and quiet at quotation. Cantons have improved to \$137 with sales and close steady at that rate. Yangtzes and North Chinas continue weak and without business at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas have ruled weak and inactive and without business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have been in fair demand and sales have been effected at \$27½, the market closing steady to strong. Indo-Chinas have found further buyers at \$64 for settlements and at \$66 for June, closing steady at \$63. Douglasses have been placed at \$58, but more are obtainable at that rate. China Manilas have improved—on the sale of the steamer *Zafiro* for \$180,000—to \$82 after small sales at \$80 and \$81. China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue steady with a fair business at \$168½ for settlements, whilst a demand forward at better than equivalent rates remains unsatisfied. Luzons unchanged and quiet.

MINING.—Punjoms remain very quiet with little or no business at \$6. Olivers B have declined to \$5.75 with sales and A's are obtainable at \$18. Jebebus continue weak and without business. Charbonnages unchanged and quiet. Balmorals continue on offer and even the reduced rates of \$1.30 and \$1.20 do not tempt buyers. Raubs have ruled a little weaker with sellers at \$29 and but few sales.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further improved their position with sales at 256 per cent.

prem. cash and at 265 per cent. prem. for June, market closing quieter at 255. Kowloon Wharves continue neglected with small sales at quotation. Wanchais unchanged with a small business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been on offer during the week at \$73 without finding buyers. Hotels have changed hands at \$54 and Wanchais at \$41. West Points continue on offer at \$20 without business and Humphreys are enquired for at \$8.25 without bringing out shares.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands continue weak, without business and with sellers at quotations. Watsons have changed hands at \$12 and more are offering at that rate. United Bells Asbestos have been negotiated at \$1.40 and more could be placed at that. Nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	100 % prem. = \$362.50, sellers
China & Japan, prf.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	\$4	nominal
Do. deferred...	\$1	\$5.5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$19
Founders Shares...	\$1	\$19
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	\$1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$167½, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, sellers
Hongkong	\$40	\$29, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 110, buyers
Lao Kung Mow ..	Tls. 100	Tls. 103, sales
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 510
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 93
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5½
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$30
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$28, sellers
Do. New Issue	\$2½	\$12½, buyers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$125
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$9½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$54, sales & sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$107, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$57, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$164, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	255 p. ct. prem. = \$443.75
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$137, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$98, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$63, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$332½, sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 1½8, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$13, sellers
Union	\$50	\$220, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$140, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$73, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8.35, buyers
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$17
West Point Building	\$40	\$20, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$37, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$140, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$5, sales & sellers
Do. Do.	\$2½	\$2.50, buyers
Jebebu	\$5	\$1½, sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.20
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$1.30, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$18, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$5, sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$6, sales
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.70, sales
Raubs	14s. 10d.	\$29, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$1½, buyers
Steamship Coy.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$81, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	\$10	\$7 1½s., buyers
Do. Preference...	\$10	\$5 5s., buyers
Do. Do.	\$5	\$2 12s. 6d., buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$53, sales & sellers
H., Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$27½
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$83, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$1.40, sal. & buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$41, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 4th April.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—A fair amount of business has been done, although checked to some extent by the Easter holidays. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—

Cash shares changed hands locally at 190 per cent. premium, and were purchased from Hongkong on the same terms. Shares were also sold to Hongkong at 195 per cent. premium for 30th June delivery. The Hongkong rate is 190 per cent. with buyers, which is equal to 194 per cent. with exchange 173, and this we quote as the closing cash rate. There is no change in other Bank shares. Marine Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance Association, Ltd.—The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts to the 31st December last have been published for the meeting of shareholders called for the 22nd current, 1898.—The Working Account of this and former years shews a credit balance of \$187,345.15, which is \$33,784.84 less than in the previous term. The Losses (assuming that the return premiums paid on this year's account in 1897 are among the losses) amount to \$206,691.56, equal to 48.41 per cent. of the premiums, against 47.26 per cent. in 1895. The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. which will absorb \$48,000, and leave a balance of \$139,345.15 to be carried forward. 1897.—The net premiums amount to \$515,156.74, and exceed those of the previous year by \$88,227.38. The losses and claims paid amount to \$284,154.62, and there are claims pending on known losses estimated at \$165,000. The Directors therefore do not recommend the payment of any dividend out of this year's business at present. The expenses amount to \$35,836.43, equal to 16.61 per cent. of the premiums, against 18.58 per cent. in the previous year. The balance carried forward is \$226,512.92, which is \$29,918.16 less than in the previous year. The premium on the 1,052 unallotted shares was \$66,000, which has been added to the Reserve Fund, which now stands at \$516,000. The amount at credit of the Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account is \$85,514.27. No business has been reported in these shares. North-China Insurance shares have changed hands at Tls. 1.98. Fire Insurance.—No local transaction is reported. Shipping.—In Indo-China S.N. shares a large business has been done. Cash shares were sold to Hongkong early in the week at \$61.50. Business was done locally at Tls. 46.50, 47.50 cash, Tls. 47.50 for the 30th current, Tls. 50, 49, and 50 for June, and Tls. 50 for July. Cash shares are wanted at Tls. 47. Sugar Companies.—A large holding of Perak Sugar Cultivation shares was forced off at Tls. 35. China Sugar Refining shares were placed for July delivery at \$182.50. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were sold to Hongkong at \$29 cash and \$30 for the 30th June, and more are offering. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Business has been done in Boyd & Co. shares at Tls. 197.50, S. C. Farnham & Co. shares at Tls. 173, Shanghai Dock shares, one Founders' at Tls. 200, and Ordinary at Tls. 75/80 cash, Tls. 77.50 for the 15th current, and Tls. 80 for the 30th June, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares at Tls. 122. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 92.50. Industrial.—In Cotton Mill shares: E-Wos were placed at Tls. 101, Internationals at Tls. 110, Laou-Kung-Mows at Tls. 103/104 cash and Tls. 110 for the 30th June, and Soy Cakes at Tls. 510. Shanghai Ice shares were sold at Tls. 115 cash and for April at the same price, and for May at Tls. 116. China Flour Mill shares were placed at Tls. 55 and Tls. 58 cash, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 95 for the 31st August. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were placed at Tls. 395 cash dividend, and are offering on the same terms. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares have been in demand, and business has been done at Tls. 88/90 cash, Tls. 92 for June, Tls. 91 and 95 for July, and Tls. 94/96 for August. Shanghai Langkat tobacco shares have also improved, sales having been made at Tls. 250/295 cash, Tls. 320 for May, Tls. 325/335 for June, Tls. 340 for July and Tls. 360 for August. Hall & Holtz shares were sold at \$40/41. Loans.—Six per cent. Municipal Debentures were sold at Tls. 120 and 6 per cent. Land Debentures at the same price, plus the accrued interest in both cases. They are obtainable on the same terms.

Quotations are:—

BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$367.50.
Bank of China and Japan, defd.—£5.5.0
Do. ordinary.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$18.50.

COTTON MILLS.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 101.00.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—31.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 110.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ltd.—Tls. 104.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 510.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, & CO.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 197.50.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$58.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$437.4.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 173.00.
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 80.00.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 122.00.

INSURANCES.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$130.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$99.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$65.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$337.4.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 198.00.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$13.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$225.
Yangtze Insurance Assocn., Ltd.—\$142.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$74.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$84.
Shanghai Land Invest. Co. (fully pd.)—Tls. 92.50.

MINING.

Panjon Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6.25.
Panjon Mining Co., Ltd. pref. shares.—\$1.80.
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$294.
Sieridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 2.50.

SHIPPING.

China Mutual preference.—Tls. 60.00.
Do. ordinary, £3 paid.—Tls. 26.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 170.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$59.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$27.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 47.50.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 100.00.
Shanghai Pughat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 210.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 110.00.

SUGAR.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$168.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$40.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 33.00.

MISCELLANEOUS.

American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 91.00.
Central Stores, Ltd.—\$13.
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 58.00.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$41.00.
Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$60.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 35.00.
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 500.00.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 215.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75.00.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 115.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 295.00.
Do. New Issue.—Nominal.
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 30.00.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 90.00.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 305.00.
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$12.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 15th April.—Since our last, there has been an active demand for steam tonnage and rates shew an advance on previous settlements.

Saigon to Hongkong ready medium-sized steamers command 42 cents per picul, large carriers loading three weeks hence 37 to 38 cents per picul.

Hence to Japan ports 62 cents has been paid, for Yokohama, the closing week at 56 cents per picul, for Kobe 60 cents has been effected, but closes at 45 cents per picul.

Bangkok to Hongkong, the demand is quieter at 45 outside and 50 cents inside the bar for small carriers.

Newchwang to Canton, 57½ cents is offered, but 40 cents per picul is demanded.

Coal freights, Japan to Hongkong advanced to \$1.80 per ton at which rate 2 fixtures were effected and further tonnage is wanted at this figure—to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton is offered.

Two steamers have been purchased locally by the United States Government. The British steamer *Nanshan*, 1,344 tons net register for £32,000, and the British steamer *Zeyiro*, 675 tons net register for £18,000.

There is one vessel disengaged in port, registering 1,522 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

St. David—American ship, 1,536 tons, hence to New York.

Geo. S. Homers—American barque, 1,267 tons, hence to Baltimore.

Westbury—Russian barque, 493 tons, hence to San Francisco, \$3 per ton.

John Baizley—American barque, 700 tons, Hon Kohe Bay to Penang, 24 cents per picul.

Boyle—British steamer, 1,331 tons, Moji to Bangkok, \$3.75 per ton (U.S. gold); thence to Hongkong, 37½ and 42½ cents per picul.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,237 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Vortiger—British steamer, 1,982 tons, Moji and, or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.

Astrid—Norwegian steamer, 957 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Arata—British steamer, 2,415 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32 cents per picul.

Tricheong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul.

Martha—German steamer, 1,560 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 40 cents per picul.

Benlomond—British steamer, 1,752 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 38 cents per picul.

Wosang—British steamer, 1,167 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 39 cents per picul.

Tritos—German steamer, 1,341 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 40 cents per picul.

Pathan—British steamer, 1,723 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 39 cents per picul.

Glenaron—British steamer, 1,912 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 37 cents per picul.

Donar—German steamer, 1,202 tons, Hongkong to Yokohama, 50 cents per picul.

Loonmoon—German steamer, 1,790 tons, Hongkong to Kobe, 56 cents per picul.

Hounslow—British steamer, 1,799 tons, Hongkong to Kobe, 52 cents per picul.

Astrid—Norwegian steamer, 957 tons, Hongkong to Kobe, 51 cents per picul.

Chiswick—British steamer, 1,312 tons, Hongkong to Kobe, 45 cents per picul.

Zweena—British steamer, 941 tons, Hongkong to Kobe, 55 cents per picul.

Floksung—British steamer, 991 tons, Hongkong to Yokohama, 56 cents per picul.

Hupei—British steamer, 845 tons, Hongkong to Yokohama, 57 cents per picul.

Tedatos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$3.50 per month.

VESSELS ON THE FERTH.

For LONDON.—*Manila* (str.), *Izion* (str.), *Glen-shiel* (str.), *Chusan* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*China* (str.), *West*

York, *Imberhorne*, *Doric* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Lennox* (str.), *Claverhill* (str.), *St. David*.

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Prince Heinrich* (str.).

For PORTLAND.—*Argyll* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Guthrie* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Tamba Maru* (str.), *Ernest Simons* (str.).

For VICTORIA.—*Tacoma* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

- 8, Menmuir, British str., from Kobe.
- 8, Queen Margaret, Brit. str., from N. York.
- 9, Gerda, German str., from Moji.
- 9, Deucalion, British str., from Sandakan.
- 9, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Loonmoon, German str., from Canton.
- 9, Thekla, German str., from Hamburg.
- 9, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 9, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
- 9, Yungching, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 9, Donar, German str., from Saigon.
- 10, Glengarry, British str., from Moji.
- 10, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Wuolan, German str., from Saigon.
- 10, P. C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Indus, French str., from Marseilles.
- 10, Thales, British str., from Amoy.
- 10, Benalder, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Sunda, British str., from Yokohama.
- 10, Quarta, German str., from Bangkok.
- 11, Hangchow, British str., from Wuhu.
- 11, Sarpedon, British str., from Liverpool.
- 11, Leeyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 12, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
- 12, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
- 12, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
- 12, Hunan, British str., from Wuhu.
- 12, Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 12, Zweena, British str., from Singapore.
- 12, Peshawur, British str., from Kobe.
- 12, Cnsang, British str., from Saigon.
- 12, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 13, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 13, Rohilla, British str., from Yokohama.
- 13, Fausang, British str., from Canton.
- 13, Matsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from S'pore.
- 13, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 13, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Framnes, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 13, Hupei, British str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
- 13, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
- 13, Kong Beng, British str., from Saigon.
- 13, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 13, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.

- 14, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Elphinstone, British str., from Saigon.
 14, Isidon Pons, Spanish str., from Manila.
 14, Nanyang, German str., from Swatow.
 14, Pronto, German str., from Kobe.
 14, Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 14, Trocas, British str., from Batoum.
 14, Ixion, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.
 14, Tamarind, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 14, Tam O'Shanter, Amr. ship, from N. York.
 14, Fooksang, British ship, from Wuhu.
 15, Acti, Danish str., from Bangkok.
 15, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 15, Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Tacoma, British str., from Tacoma.
 15, Boynton, British str., from Rangoon.
 15, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
 15, Germania, German str., from Moji.
 15, Canton, British str., from London.
 15, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 15, Jason, British str., from Singapore.
 15, Letimbro, Italian str., from Bombay.
 15, Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- April—
 DEPARTURES.
 9, Dante, German str., for Saigon.
 9, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 9, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 9, Jacob Christensen, Nor. str., for Australia.
 9, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
 9, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 9, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
 10, Indus, French str., for Shanghai.
 10, Kiangpak, Chinese str., for Kobe.
 10, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 10, Queen Margaret, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 10, Riojun Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 10, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 10, Contest, British ship, for Tientsin.
 10, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Changsha, British str., for Kobe.
 10, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 10, Dyoo Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 10, West York, British ship, for S. Francisco.
 11, Chunsang, British str., for Saigon.
 11, Rugby, British str., for Chefoo.
 11, Szechuen, British str., for Takao.
 11, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
 11, Loongmoon, German str., for Kobe.
 11, Shantung, British str., for Yokohama.
 12, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
 12, Candia, British str., for Yokohama.
 12, Albion, British str., for Bangkok.
 12, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.
 12, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
 12, Quarta, German str., for Kobe.
 12, Sunda, British str., for London.
 12, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Thekla, German str., for Yokohama.
 12, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
 13, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 13, Yungching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 13, Gerda, German str., for Singapore.
 13, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
 13, Australian, British str., for Nagasaki.
 13, Keongwai, British str., for Bangkok.
 13, Sarpodon, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Benalder, British str., for New York.
 13, Donar, German str., for Kobe.
 13, Fausang, British str., for Bangkok.
 13, Leeyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 13, Loksang, British str., for Yokohama.
 13, Menmuir, British str., for Australia.
 13, Prosper, Norw. str., for Port Wallut.
 13, Gefion, German cr., for Shanghai.
 14, Bygdo, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 14, Frejr, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
 14, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 14, Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 14, Loyal, German str., for Kobe.
 14, P. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
 14, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Wuotan, German str., for Yokohama.
 14, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
 14, Deutschland, German cr., for Shanghai.
 14, Humber, British storeship, for Nagasaki.
 15, Haimun, British str., for Amoy.
 15, Ixion, British str., for London.
 15, Benvenue, British str., for Saigon.
 15, Chiswick, British str., for Saigon.
 15, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Peshawur, British str., for Bombay.
 15, Matsuyama Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 15, Fooksang, British str., for Canton.
 15, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 15, Immortalite, British cruiser, for Chefoo.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton King, Misses Helen, Marie S. and Cora L. King, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Valentine, Miss E. G. Lukens, Mrs. R. Gore, Mrs. Geo. B. Efner, Messrs. T. Lloyd Jones, A. B. Brown, H. Binley, J. E. Wylie, Alyoss Lamm, Alex. Morphy, and G. H. May.

Per *Australian*, for Hongkong from Melbourne, Miss Numm; from Sydney, Mr. D. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett, Mrs. E. Snowden, Misses Snowden (2), Mr. and Mrs. Elder, Miss Elder, Messrs. A. S. D. Francis and Oscar Rowe, Miss M. A. Borman, Mr. H. Martin, Miss M. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Master Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. P. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Goode, Misses Goode (3), Dr. On Lee, Miss Ah Toy, Mr. and Mrs. Ah Loong and 6 children, Mr. and Mrs. I. Sha and 7 children, Mr. and Mrs. Ping Kee and 4 children; from Port Darwin, Messrs. A. J. Piteber, M. Rinaldi and Minami; from Timor, Messrs. A. J. Gon-salves Periera, B. A. Margal, D. Calvi a, and I. August; for Shanghai from Sydney, Mr. Hall; for Kobe from Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. W. Helm, and Mr. A. Rossina; for Yokohama from Sydney, Miss Ferguson, Miss A. S. Quigley, Mr. J. N. Grace, Miss Grace, Messrs. Dalglish, A. G. Donovan, A. Carson, D. Carson, Mrs. Theo. Barker, Mr. M. Ogura, Hon. E. Vickery, M. L. C., Mrs. E. Vickery, Miss E. Vickery, Miss A. A. Vickery, and Mr. J. R. Raynor.

Per *Gerda*, from Moji, Mr. Faust, Sanderson, Mrs. Bonzer and Mr. Heidkemper.

Per *Chelydra*, from Calcutta &c., Mr. Budgett, Miss Budgett, Messrs. Orndell, Neil and Moore, and 291 Chinese.

Per *Menmuir*, from Kobe, for Australia, Mrs. W. G. McArthur, Mrs. Dowel, Mr. McDougall, Misses McDougall, E. Halley and Deacon.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Miss M. C. Enriquez, Mr. and Mrs. Faustino Licpanco and family, Messrs. G. Brockman, J. Sanchez and child, and C. Meyer.

Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Dr. Bliss, Rev. and Mrs. Gardiner and children, Mr. and Mrs. Carles and five children, Dr. and Mrs. Layng and four children, Messrs. Munro and Berner, Miss Winstanley.

Per *Indus*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mrs. Bilbrough, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hannis, Mr. and Mrs. J. Helster, Messrs. L'Abbé Mirand, Goo Ping, Baddeley, G. E. Salinger, G. Long-enay, E. Grauer, J. C. Quien, H. Hewson, Cham-hac, Low See, V. Schmidt, Goh Liang-hep, Jules Bourgeois, and Charles Bantier and Rev. Sibert; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Banoff, Mr. and Mrs. Renault and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Trubert and 2 infants, Mr. and Mrs. Pichois, Messrs. Hem-mingsen, J. P. Nelson, Gourloven, L. Feydel, E. W. Aldis, J. J. Deacon, Mitchell Harris, Mollehanoff, Leon Laclaze, H. Ketels, and King, and Rev. Bertrand Cothonay; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Messrs. Hirsfeld, Takuda, Dien Kate and Oplan; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Abatranoff, Miss Lokokeloff, Mr. and Mrs. Flandin and child, Messrs. Atman Edwards, G. Charon, Walneff, Tontfryde, R. R. C. Til-lingham, Joshizo Wida, R. P. Vissers, Sister Cotton, and Rev. Pouillier; from Colombo, Mr. Sylvan Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Kern, Mr. Isgario-cheff, Mr. and Mrs. R. Pescio; from Singapore, Messrs. Stiven, Leins, Mychara, E. Mychara, and Mrs. Ohay; from Saigon, Messrs. de Piu-feilhoux, Bandet, H. O. Meuller, Blanchard, Lognaud, Carrere, Lethay, Fournier, and Miss Lognaud.

Per *Sunda*, for London, from Yokohama, Mr. H. V. R. Jones; from Shanghai, Mrs. Ready, infant and nurse, Mrs. Ed. Davis, child and infant, Mrs. Newmarsh and infant, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Craddock, child and infant, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dickson and infant, Dr. and Mrs. Vivian Chang and two children, Dr. and Miss Dudgeon, Masters Oliver (2), and Mr. Martin Griffith; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mr. G. McBain; for Hongkong, Mrs. and Miss Tennant, Messrs. C. Y. Tong, and J. N. Cunningham, Lieut. Hodges, Lieut. Hammersling, and Lieut. Pearson.

Per *Formosa*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. H. Wheeler.

Per *Rohilla*, from Yokohama for Hongkong, Messrs. T. Clement Fisher and P. M. Abdoolla;

for Bombay, Mr. Noor Mahd. Hassan; for London, Mrs. Charles Freeman, Mrs. J. W. Shepherd, Mrs. F. W. Hammond; from Kobe for Hongkong, Mr. Yee Woo, Master Chee Cock, and Mr. Tong Mon Tai; for Colombo, Mr. A. J. Battle; from Nagasaki for Hongkong, Mrs. Okomara and child, Miss Harada, Mr. and Mrs. Hamamura and 2 children, Messrs. Ah Mey, Ahyo, Matsumoto, Tanaka, Mrs. Kurose, Messrs. Fukudo, Ito and Mori.

Per *Hailan*, from Pakhoi, &c., Mr. Brown.

Per *Trieste*, for Hongkong from Trieste, Mrs. Verona Thuma; from Bombay, Mr. W. N. Davis; from Colombo, Mr. L. G. Stokes; for Kobe from Colombo, Mr. M. Loebell; from Singapore, Mr. Thos. Robson; for Shanghai from Bombay, Mr. Dhungerboy.

DEPARTED.

Per *City of Peking*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, Mr. Thom-son, Jr., Mr. E. H. Grimani, Mr. G. F. Montgomery, Mrs. R. T. Hall, Baron Von der Goltz, Mr. Hall, Mr. T. Hashimoto, Mr. Max Rolle, Mr. R. Warner, Mr. Nulsen; for Naga-saki, Mr. A. F. Price; for Kobe, Mr. A. J. M. Gomes, and Mr. W. Danby; for Yokohama, Mr. B. Layton, Mr. and Mrs. Delafend, Mrs. Ehmer, Mr. Murray, Mr. W. N. Kait, Mr. D. Haugty; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Sewell, Miss Watson, Mr. E. L. Prior, Mr. E. J. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Swayne, Mr. E. W. Shattuck, Lt. and Mrs. Paine, Mr. A. G. Center; for Portland, Miss Colman, Miss Bailey, Miss Deitrich; for Tacoma, Rev. J. M. Foster; for New York, Mr. J. E. Lambie, and Mr. V. A. Dodge.

Per *Melbourne*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mr. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Prouchandy and child; for Singapore, Messrs. R. E. Rye, N. W. M. Schoorel, A. Crane, and Mr. H. Bailly; for Marseilles, Messrs. F. F. Skurry, L. Niven, and B. Mendes d'Almeida.

Per *Indus*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Colonel and Mrs. Dickenson, Messrs. W. King, W. J. Allan, Haimonitch, E. F. Gibson, C. Raffel, W. Harvey, Mrs. Seager, Mrs. L. Reeves, Miss Wills, Mrs. M. Gutierrez, and Rev. C. Boutier; for Nagasaki, Mr. Newman Mumford; for Kobe, Mrs. Snowden, Misses L. C. and J. C. Snowden, Messrs. O. Rowe, E. Geach, and J. M. Guterres; for Yokohama, Mr. E. Deveson.

Per *Gerda*, for Hamburg, Mr. and Mrs. Schoenpelder and 5 children, Mr. P. Grath, Mrs. Ernest Nissen, Messrs. C. Klimann, G. Bahr, Fr. Wessel, A. H. Rothbart, Mrs. Bunge, Messrs. Faust and Russ; for Singapore, Messrs. G. A. Wyley and Taumel.

Per *Sunda*, from Hongkong for London, Dr. and Mrs. Layng, 2 children and 2 infants, Mr. D. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Carles and 5 children, Miss Parkhill, Mr. F. von der Pford-ten, Miss Melbourne, and Mr. Cumming; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Collinge, Messrs. F. Santos and Grossmann; from Shanghai for London, Mrs. Keady and infant, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Craddock, child and infant, Mrs. Ed. Davis, child and infant, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dick-son and infant, Mrs. Newmarsh and infant, Dr. Dudgeon, Miss Dudgeon, Masters Oliver (2), Miss C. Ker, Mr. Martin Griffiths, Dr. and Mrs. Vivian Echang and 2 children; for Singapore, Mr. G. McBain.

Per *Australian*, for Japan Ports, Mrs. Theo. Barker, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett, Miss M. A. Boorman, Mr. and Mrs. Elder, Miss Elder, Mr. J. N. Grace, Miss Grace, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Goode, Miss Good, Miss B. Goode, Miss E. Goode, Mr. and Mrs. Helms, Mr. and Miss Martin, Miss Quigley, Miss Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Hon. E. Vickery, Mrs. Vickery, Misses E. and A. Vickery, Messrs. A. and D. Carson, Dalglish, Donovan, Francis McLachlan, O'gora, Raynar, Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, and Miss Malignes.

Per *Thales*, for Foochow, Capt. Fonbrade, Messrs. Oswald and J. H. Ferry.

Per *Menmuir*, for Australian Ports, Mr. G. R. Stevens, Mrs. Bowker and 3 children, Messrs. T. Clement Fisher, T. Wingate, Revs. A. Dow and F. Sugs.

Per *Wingsang*, for Shanghai, Messrs. L. W. Brandt, Z. Lichanco, H. A. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. T. Dent.

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